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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 30 | MONDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

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Sunday, February 5, 2012

INSIDE

LOCAL

Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura will soon be joining the ranks of notable Japanese personages in the community who have left Saipan after calling this tiny rock in the Pacific their home for decades. ➤ PAGE 8

NATION

Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney cruised to victory in the Nevada caucuses Saturday night, notching a second straight triumph over a field of rivals suddenly struggling to keep pace. ➤ PAGE 15

ASIA

A day after proclaiming the death of a top regional terrorist suspect in a U.S.-backed airstrike, the Philippine military acknowledged Friday that his remains still have not been found. ➤ PAGE 16

Govt overspending offset by revenue gains in 3 months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Some $1.5M overspending in medical referral, utilities alone

» As Chamber expects Inos to report on budget, FICA issues

Preliminary data shows that in a three-month period or during the first quarter of fiscal year 2012, the CNMI government spent some $1.5 million more than what it set aside for utilities and medical referral alone.

But Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said over-expenditures in some areas were cushioned or offset by actual revenues that exceeded the estimates. Under a $102-million budget for FY 2012, the government is supposed to stay within a $25.5-million bud-

Inos

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'Stranded alien worker books yet another flight today'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A longterm nonresident worker who was denied boarding a plane from the Philippines to the CNMI via Guam on Jan. 30 despite valid travel documents including a $360 advance parole hopes that this time around, Continental Micronesia will allow her to board the plane, Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. founding president Rene Reyes said yesterday.

Reyes, a worker's rights advocate, said

See STRANDED on Page 4

OPEN WIDE CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist dental hygienist Beverly Moretti takes a look inside the mouth of Pio Nogis, 9, during the Give Kids A Smile event last Friday.

See story on Page 13

CNMI ranks second lowest on issued passports among states, territories

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. State Department issued 2,411 U.S. passports to CNMI residents in fiscal year 2011 or an average of six every single day, but that's a 24-percent decline from the previous year's 3,191. Across the United States, there's been a drop in the number of passports issued.

State Department data shows that the CNMI ranked second to the lowest among all U.S. states and territories when it came to the total number of passports issued in FY 2011.

The CNMI outranked only American Samoa which had only 1,509 passports issued in the last fiscal year.

The U.S. Virgin Islands ranked third lowest with 8,844, followed by Guam with 10,753, Wyoming with 16,445, and South Dakota with 21,642.

On the other end of the spectrum was

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Local

TO SAVE ON ENERGY COST:

PSS orders early dismissal of students, cuts in AC use

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System will implement a unified energy conservation policy in all public schools to reduce its increasing power consumption this school year.

Saipan Tribune confirmed Friday that the new energy conservation policy includes early dismissal of students and limited use of air-conditioning units effective today, Feb. 6.

School employees, managers, administrators, and some parents interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* disclosed that the new policy came in the memorandum from Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, after a thorough consultation and review with school principals and leadership team last week.

Saipan Tribune was told that for elementary schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, students will be dismissed at 2pm each day which is 45 minutes earlier from what has been practiced. Classes in the elementary schools start at 8am, Mondays through Fridays.

Sources disclosed that the reduction in the students' instructional hours will not affect the Board of Education policy that mandates 320-minute instruction daily for elementary schoolchildren. It was learned that for many years, PSS has been providing elementary level students more than the required daily instruction.

If schools start turning on their air-conditioning units, or ACs, as early as 7:30am every day and shut down the units every 2:30pm each day before, the new policy mandates a new schedule.

PSS, through the commissioner's letter to each school administrators, ordered that all aircon units must be switched on starting at 10am every day and must be shut down at exactly 2pm each day. All ACs must also be adjusted at 78 (temperature) and recommended the opening of windows and doors in the beginning of classes in the morning.

For secondary schools, including junior high schools, start of classes will be maintained at 8:30am through 3pm every day because of the required daily instructional minutes under the board's policy. However, their AC units will also start functioning at 10am through 3pm and must also be adjusted at 78 (temperature).

During weekends and holidays, a complete power and water shutdown is ordered across all school levels.

The after-school programs, weekend school activities, and even PSS-related events are not spared from the measure as the PSS mandates no usage of power and recommended conducting them in outdoor settings and venues.

School officials and employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* disclosed that the new energy conservation measure was shared with their respective PTSAs, which they said had expressed understanding and support to the action. Letters to parents were issued last week from individual schools, it was learned.

Saipan Tribune last week tried to get comments from commissioner Sablan but she refused to make a statement regarding the conservation measure pending the education board's approval of the "plan."

During the January meeting of the board, it was disclosed by

See PSS on Page 4

IN BURNING OF CLOTHING STORE CASE

Counsels complete closing arguments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The counsels completed Friday afternoon the closing arguments in the ongoing federal jury trial of a lawsuit filed by FirstNet Insurance Co. against the owner of a clothing store in Garapan that went up in flames in 2010.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the seven jurors to start deliberating today. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 5:15pm Friday, Manglona was starting to give the jury instructions.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp., owner of BL Clothing Store that was burned, rested Friday afternoon after their last witness—Zheng Biao, the sole shareholder of the company—completed his testimony.

Zhen Rui Brother also called yesterday to the witness stand a neighbor of Biao, who testified that he saw Biao at his house on the night of Oct. 29, 2010.

The fire broke out in the early morning of Oct. 30, 2010.

FirstNet is suing Zhen Rui Brother Corp. for allegedly deliberately setting off the fire so that Biao could claim $414,718.53 in insurance proceeds. Zhen Rui Brother Corp. is countersuing FirstNet for breach of contract for refusing to pay the insurance policy.

At his closing arguments, attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for FirstNet, described Biao as a con-man who filed this fraudulent insurance claim.

Pierce said the trails of fabric that had gasoline showed there were multiple fires as the intent was clearly to burn the place.

Pierce said as Fire Lt. Kevin Aldan had testified it looked like what happened at BL Clothing Store was a staged break-in.

Pierce said it doesn't make sense that a burglar would burn several areas of a store all for $200, which was apparently the daily sales of the establishment.

"I ask you who had the key for the cash register?" the lawyer told the jurors. He said Biao admitted he had the key for the cash register then.

A photo of the cash register showed that apparently it was opened with a shovel used by firefighters. There were coins remaining but no paper bills.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Zhen Rui Brother Corp., in the closing arguments asserted that FirstNet has failed to prove its burden that Biao or Zhen Rui Brother Corp. burned the store to collect insurance proceeds.

Dotts said FirstNet also failed to prove that Biao or Zhen Rui Brother Corp. materially misrepresented in the filing of inventory to support the insurance claim.

Dotts said instead of paying Biao, FirstNet instead sued his company.

Dotts suggested the jurors that they have three options in calculating the damages that FirstNet owed to Zhen Rui Brother Corp.

Dotts said the three options for reasonable damages are $186,128.16; $310,213.59; and $404,718.53.

In the continuation of his testimony yesterday, Biao said he did not collect the daily sales on Friday, Oct. 29, 2010 or the day before the fire broke out.

During direct examination by Zhen Rui Brother Corp.'s another counsel, Ramon Quichocho, Biao testified that aside from fire insurance, he also purchased earthquake and typhoon insurance or general liability insurance.

Biao said his decision to purchase insurances was made upon the suggestion of the building owner after his store was burglarized.

Biao denied he burned his own store. He also stated he does not know who burned his store.

Biao's neighbor, a local man, said he and his family were having barbecue the night of Oct. 29, 2010 when Biao came aboard his car so he invited him to join them.

The neighbor said Biao refused, saying he has work the following day.

The witness said they finished the family gathering at about 12 midnight and that he didn't see Biao leaving his house.

Patient questions 'improper and long delayed' billing from CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A Commonwealth Health Center patient last week expressed dismay upon receiving a "improper and long delayed" billing for his medical expenses.

Frank H. Cepeda, 50, is a U.S. Army veteran and a registered nurse. Recently, he received from his mailbox a CHC billing dated Jan. 9 from the Guam Marianas Collection Agency, the company contracted by the public hospital to perform billing works for the organization.

Based on the GMCA notice, Cepeda is demanded to pay a total of $75.60 for the "services" he received from CHC in August 2006. The amount covered two unidentified service items—one for $30 and one for $45.60.

GMCA said Cepeda's delinquent account must be paid in full in 30 days after receipt to avoid further collection actions.

The agency also indicated that failure to make such timely payment will result in reporting the delinquency to all local and national credit bureaus that may impair Cepeda's ability to obtain credit in the future.

Clueless of what were the services or hospital treatment he received in 2006, Cepeda said he called CHC to inquire and seek clarification. But he was surprised upon hearing the staff's response.

"I am surprised they cannot explain! After six long years, how can you expect me to keep all those receipts? And now I have no choice but to pay for it or it will go directly to my credit record? That's unfair!" he said, adding that it's improper for CHC or its collection agency to issue a notice without specifying what a patient or customer is being billed for.

"I don't know what this bill is for? What if I was billed for $8K? This is really ridiculous! Where is the fairness in this thing? They are holding me basically at gunpoint [regardless of what amount]. If I did not pay in 30 days, they will ruin my credit [reference and history?" the disappointed retiree said.

Cepeda said he is medically insured by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and this is the first time he was cited for delinquency. In the past, he said he just sent all billings or forms to VA for payment and everything was settled.

"For me, it was covered by the insurance already. And because CHC is not doing the proper billing procedure in a timely manner, this thing came up and it needs to stop now."

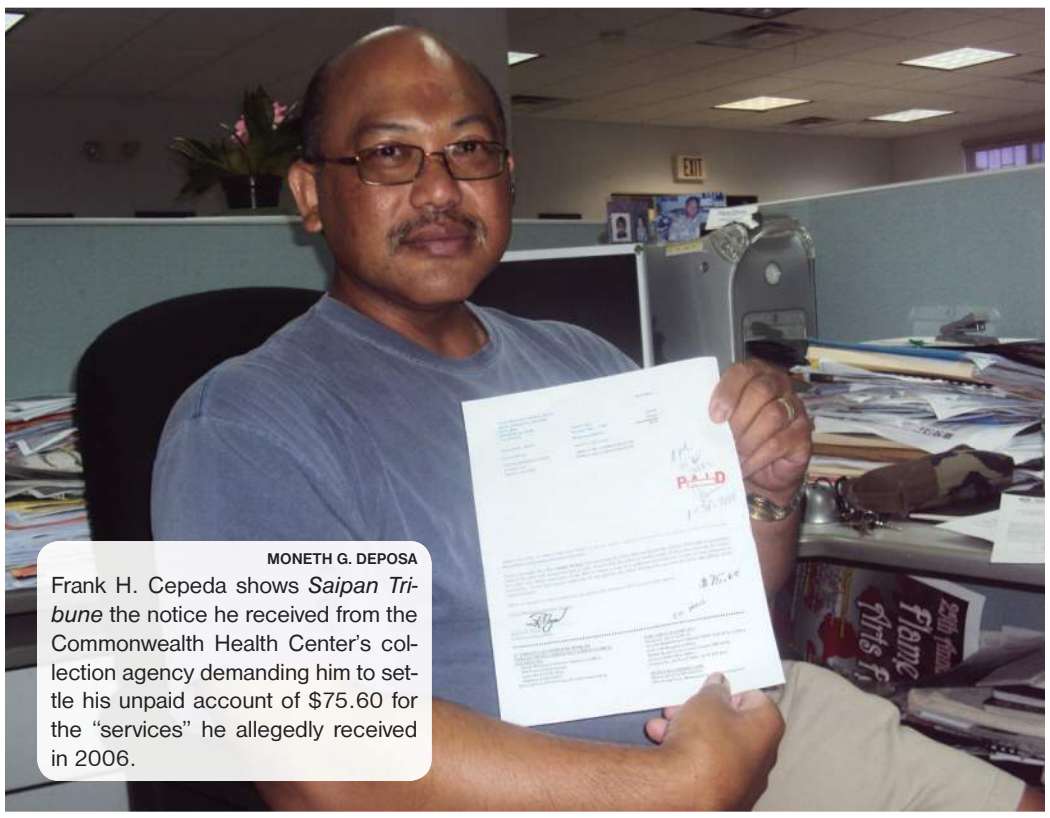
Since he retired in 2001, Cepeda said he has never encountered any problem with his insurance especially in the payment issues. In his personal bills, he claimed that he pays in a timely manner.

"Imagine how many other people out there have this same improper billing issue? This is a bad time for everybody, for families, and government workers and they may not afford to pay this. If only CHC is doing this task properly and fairly, we won't have this issue," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he will continue to appeal this notice until some corrections are made.

Saipan Tribune learned that from only one coder prior to the Commpnwealth Healthcare Corp's. takeover, CHC now has six coders, decentralized in key areas of the hospital to speed up the inputting of medical records so billing and collection will be done in a timely manner.

The corporation recently discovered piles of uncoded medical records that affected the hospital's revenue collection.

Based on its assessment, there is approximately $52 million in uncollectible bills from patients of which only over $20 million can be collected because of the statute of limitations, or billings that have not been issued for many years and within the scope of the statute.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Frank H. Cepeda shows *Saipan Tribune* the notice he received from the Commonwealth Health Center's collection agency demanding him to settle his unpaid account of $75.60 for the "services" he allegedly received in 2006.

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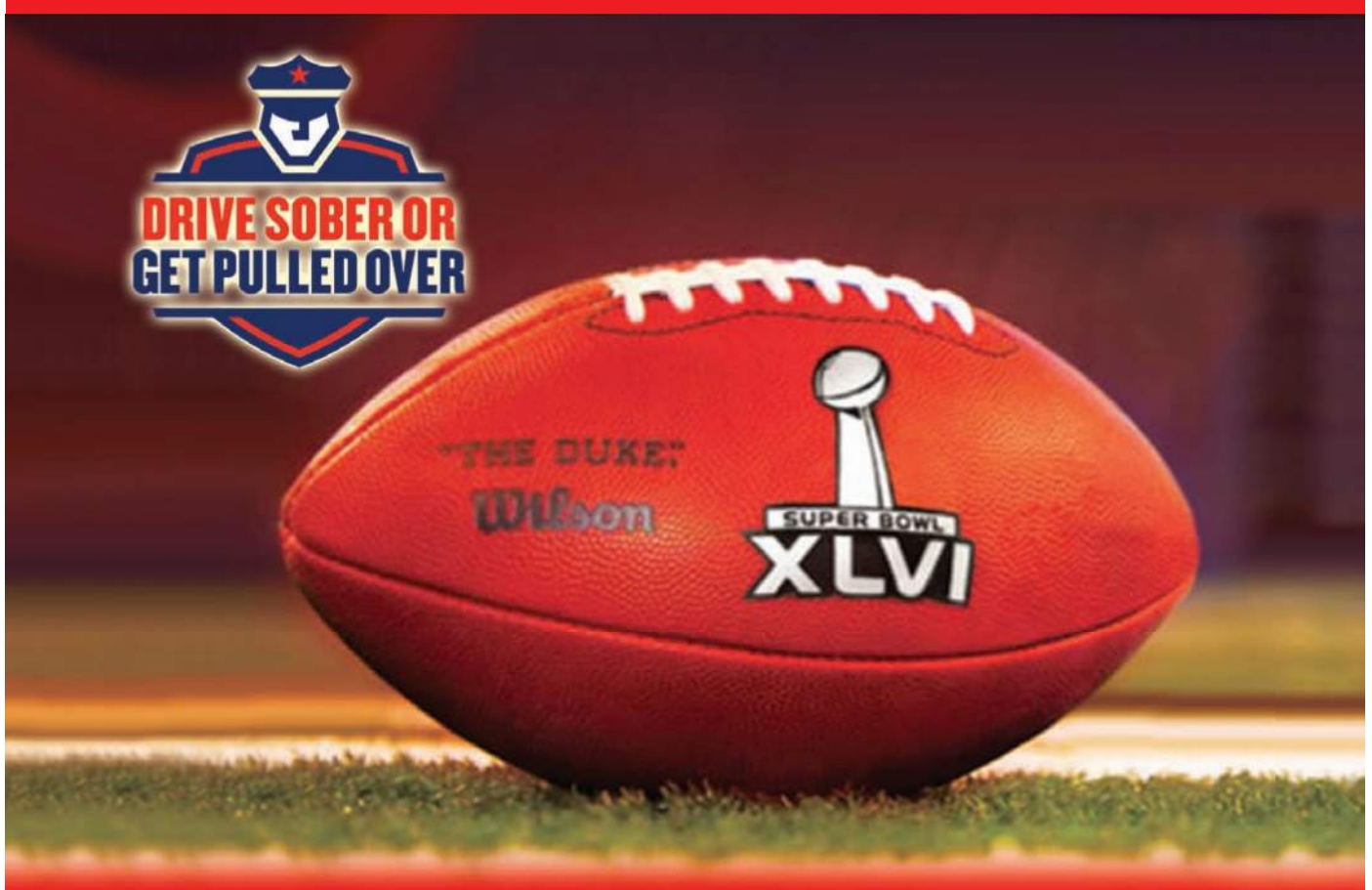

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Man in immigration document fraud signs plea deal

A man who is facing an indictment for immigration document fraud has signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Under the plea agreement, Mohammed Shoukat Bhuiyan will plead guilty to one count of immigration document fraud.

The change of plea hearing will be on Feb. 13, 2012 at 2pm.

Assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that the prosecution and Bhuiyan have signed the plea agreement.

Attorney Colin Thompson is court-appointed counsel for the defendant.

According to court papers, Bhuiyan, a Bangladeshi, signed and submitted on Oct. 13, 2008, a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-485 (application to register permanent residence or adjust status) in support of his request for adjustment to lawful permanent resident status.

Bhuiyan answered in negative as to the question: "Have you, by fraud or willful misrepresentation of a material fact, ever sought to procure, or procured—any immigration benefit?"

Such statement influenced or had the tendency to influence USCIS in its consideration of Bhuiyan's request for adjustment.

At the time, Bhuiyan knew that it was a false statement since in 2007 until Oct. 13, 2008, he sought immigration status as a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. by claiming to have resided continuously with wife Delora Taman Bhuiyan.

Bhuiyan knew this claim to be false, since he had not in fact resided continuously with Delora Taman Bhuiyan for that period.

Last month, Delora Bhuiyan pleaded guilty to a count of immigration document fraud. Her sentencing will be on April 13, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House panel asked to reject bill using 25% of criminal, civil fines for DPS operations

By Haidee V. Eugenio
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez asked House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) not to pass a Senate bill setting aside 25 percent of all criminal and civil fines collected by the courts for the Department of Public Safety's operations because of the bill's "damaging effects" on the Judiciary's ability to repay the Fund for the so-called Judicial Building Loan.

That loan was for the construction of the judicial complex in Susupe. The Fund lent over $13.8 million for this loan, with monthly payments of $120,000. A 1995 agreement assigned all court collections from criminal and civil fines and revenues to go toward repayment of that loan.

But as of Nov. 30, 2011, the Judiciary has not been remitting payment of almost $1.2 million for the loan, and the arrears continue to increase.

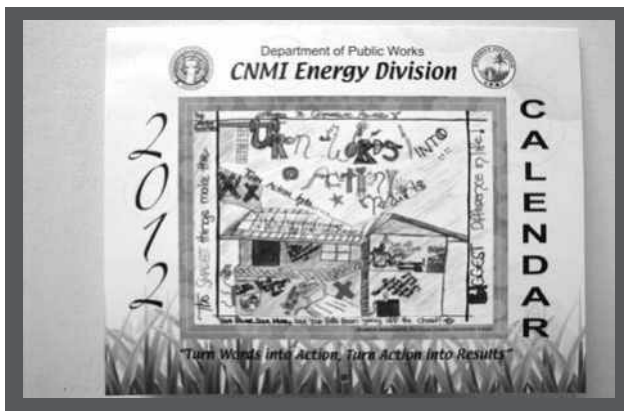
"Diverting 25 percent of collections will further impair the repayment of the loan and the Fund's revenues," Villagomez told Basa.

The Judiciary has reported that total revenues have dwindled drastically in recent years, and now average some $60,000 a month, "which is clearly not sufficient to satisfy monthly loan payments."

Basa's committee is still reviewing Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-12 that senators passed on July 28.

Villagomez said the Fund's ability to meet pension payouts is dependent on the cash collected from all sources including the Judicial Building Loan.

"The fact that it is in default is a grave concern as any reduction in revenues will result in an increase in drawdowns causing assets to be depleted sooner than anticipated, currently around September 2014… We respectfully request your Committee's report to reflect our concerns and recommends against the passage of S.B. 17-12," Villagomez added.



ENERGY POSTER CALENDAR

The Energy Division announced that the 2012 Energy Poster Calendar is now ready for distribution. The calendar illustrates the work of elementary students from grades 3 to 6 focusing on energy conservation. Copies are available on a first come, first serve basis and can be picked up at the Energy office located in Capitol Hill, Asuncion Drive Building 1337. For questions or information regarding the calendar, may contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/1. This project was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DPS sets DUI/Sobriety Checkpoints

The CNMI Department of Public Safety, Police Division, Traffic Section, will be conducting DUI/Sobriety Checkpoints today, Feb. 6, 2012

- First setup—6pm to 7:15pm, Beach Road Susupe, in front of Minatchom Atdao.
- Second setup—8:30pm to 9:45pm, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai adjacent to the CRM Office.
- Third set up—10:30pm to 11:45pm, Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

Each DUI/Sobriety Checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). This activity is part of the Commonwealth State Police, Department of Public Safety's effort to Deter, Detect and Apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

In addition, Traffic and Highway Patrol Officers will be conducting Highway Criminal Interdictions, Saturation Patrols, Aggressive Driver Interdictions, and Laser (Speed Detection) Enforcement.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, Traffic Section, at 664-9084 or 9085. ***(PR)***

STRANDED

From Page 1

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services granted the worker an advance parole that's valid until Feb. 29, and the worker booked a flight for today.

"The worker booked a flight right away because she does not want to jeopardize her job here. She is supposed to leave Manila Monday and arrive on Saipan Tuesday. We hope that this time around, Continental will allow her to board the plane at the Manila airport," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

The stranded alien worker has a pending Commonwealth-only worker petition filed by her employer.

Reyes said the worker is considering suing Continental for refusing to board her on the night of Jan. 30 despite an advance parole that's valid until Jan. 31.

"Somebody has to be made responsible for the physical and mental anguish she had to go through. When she wasn't allowed to board the plane despite showing her valid documents, she was at a loss. Her job was in jeopardy, her advance parole was already expiring, and she was forced to sleep at the airport. She was also forced to sell her personal belongings so she could survive in Manila," the MAHAL president said.

The worker, according to Reyes, asked that her name not be published at this time or the name of the Saipan company she works for.

Reyes reiterated that it's disappointing to learn that Continental, the federal immigration office in Guam, and USCIS "may have not been coordinating" when it comes to honoring valid travel documents held by nonresidents in the CNMI.

Reyes also said the worker and MAHAL would like to thank certain individuals who have helped the worker secure a new advance parole expiring on Feb. 29, to allow her to return to the CNMI—that is, if Continental allows her to board the plane today and if federal immigration officers allow her to enter Guam and the CNMI.

The nonresident worker had to go back home to the Philippines because of a death in the family in December. Before leaving Saipan, she applied for a $360 advance parole which was issued on Jan. 19. She got the advance parole on Jan. 24. Because of unavailability of seats, she could only book a Jan. 30 return flight to the CNMI.

Many of the over 11,000 foreign workers in the CNMI with pending CW applications have yet to receive their CW permit/status, as USCIS was not able to meet a self-imposed deadline of Jan. 31, 2012 to adjudicate all the applications filed on or before Nov. 28, 2011. Because these workers' status is still in limbo pending the release of decision on their CW petition, some workers are having second thoughts about going back home either for vacation or for emergency reasons.

PASSPORTS

From Page 1

California, which had the highest number of U.S. passports issued at over 1.6 million in FY 2011, followed by New York with 923,888, and Texas with 800,648. These three states also posted a decline in the number of passports issued in recent years.

In the CNMI alone, the number of passports issued has been declining in recent years, and this may have been a result of a shrinking population caused by economic slowdown.

In FY 2008, passports issued totaled 4,629. This went down to 3,312 in FY 2009 and further down to 3,191 in FY 2010 before falling below the 3,000-mark in FY 2011 with 2,411.

These figures are a combination of first-time issuance and renewal. In the CNMI, people apply for passports to travel for vacation, for medical reasons or for studying in other states or territories. Naturalized citizens also apply for U.S. passports.

GOVT

From Page 1

get every quarter.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the Department of Finance is now finalizing the first quarter 2012 spending and collections, which the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is also waiting for.

He said the government spent over $2 million for utilities in October to December 2011, or almost double the allotted $1.250 million allotted for power, water, and wastewater services for the three-month period.

Medical referral expenses also exceeded the allotment by some half a million during the same period.

So utilities and medical referral expenses alone exceeded allotments by some $1.5 million.

But Inos said actual collections from business gross revenue taxes exceeded the estimate, helping to offset overspending in other areas.

Inos said the holiday season and the monthly payment of business gross revenue tax may have helped boost collections in the first quarter.

However, the government saw a decrease in salaries and taxes, attributed to the exit of many foreign workers as a result of a slow economy and immigration issues.

But the first quarter data is not representative of the entire fiscal year, he cautioned.

For FY 2013, the Fitial administration is looking at a budget of also $102 million.

Inos, at the same time, is expected to talk about the projected budget for FY 2013, federal grants and issues related to the Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes, among other things, at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting on Wednesday.

Inos will be one of the two Chamber guest speakers, along with CNMI Neighborhood Watch's Frank Camacho.

Richard Pierce, Chamber executive director, said yesterday that the Chamber wants to hear "how taxes collected from businesses and corporations will be best utilized in providing essential services required for continuing to conduct business in the CNMI."

"The idea to ask the Lt. Governor to speak on the budget comes from a suggestion from a Chamber member. Hong Kong historically asks the Ministry of Finance to report to the business community on Hong Kong's annual budget submission," Pierce told *Saipan Tribune.*

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, said there's also an interest in hearing how, and how much, federal grant funding has been circulated in the CNMI.

"As a result of dwindling government revenue, there has been an increased focus by the CNMI government on how to best generate new revenue sources. And, that's good. Some in SCC have stated there should be a shift away from increasing taxes and permitting where it increases the cost of doing business, toward something that is traditionally considered to be cost increases passed onto consumers for goods not essential. For instance, alcohol, tobacco and gaming," he said.

Pierce added that the obvious choice is to create new business opportunities via outside investment entering the CNMI.

"That's hard right now, but there are some possibilities on the horizon," he said.

PSS

From Page 2

PSS officials that despite some energy conservation efforts implemented in all public schools, monthly billing for each school's consumption continued to yield a higher charge. PSS' finance director Richard Waldo reported to the board that for October and November 2011 billings alone, it shows that schools incurred about $400,000 monthly charge—an amount significantly higher than what was expected and recorded in previous months.

He said if this will continue, PSS will incur $4.8 million in power cost until the end of fiscal year.

PSS, under the budget allocation for fiscal year 2012, was provided only $30 million of which $28 million will be utilized in paying for personnel salary while $2 million for operation and all others and this include utilities.

It was learned that PSS is making a monthly payment to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. of approximately $100,000.

IN EIGHT-YEAR PERIOD

Fund: Investment monies withdrawn total $247.5M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Total withdrawals from the NMI Retirement Fund's investment monies has totaled $247.5 million in the last eight years or from fiscal years 2005 through first quarter of the current fiscal year.

This amount is expected to significantly increase toward the end of fiscal year 2012 where so far $17.7 million in withdrawals were recorded since December 2011.

Based on the records submitted to the Legislature by Fund officials during a recent legislative meeting, the agency reported that it was in 2005 when the agency made a withdrawal of $4.5 million from the investment fund to pay for the members' pension and benefits.

In fiscal year 2006, the drawdown increased to $18 million and further ballooned in the following year to $33.5 million. Still due to not enough contributions received by the agency, withdrawals continued to climb to $36.8 million and $43 million in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Fund records also showed that total withdrawals in fiscal year 2010 amounted to $40.8 million. In the following fiscal year, the Fund registered a 30-percent increase in drawdown with $53.2 million recorded in FY 2011.

Since the beginning of fiscal year 2012 in October last year, the agency reported that it already withdrew $17.7 million as of December—which resulted in total drawdown of $247.5 million to date.

To illustrate the current fiscal condition and viability of the pension agency, Fund officials also reported the following portfolio amounts of the pension program.

From the same period in eight fiscal years, or from FY 2005 through first quarter of FY 2012, the following are the estimated value of the fund: 2005 ($426.83 million); 2006 ($458.9 million); 2007 ($483.9 million); 2008 ($383 million); 2009 ($333.7 million); 2010 ($313.75 million); and 2011 ($267 million). This first quarter of the fiscal year 2012, the Fund meantime recorded $253.9 million estimated value of its portfolio.

In the same presentation they made to lawmakers, the Fund reiterated the critical state of the agency if no positive actions and solutions are identified to stop the "bleeding" of its investment fund.

Fund counsel asks federal court to order Jorgensen associate with local counsel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has requested the district court to order attorney Bruce Jorgensen, who sued the Fund on behalf of two unnamed retirees, to associate with local counsel as he is providing with so many addresses apparently due to his "peripatetic" lifestyle.

The Fund, through counsel Braddock Huesman, said as an alternative, it should be allowed service on Jorgensen through the district court's clerk's office as provided for in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures.

Huesman pointed out that the Local Rules require admitted attorneys to maintain a local office, and if not, they must associate with local counsel.

Huesman said Jorgensen is an admitted attorney but does not have a local office and has not associated with local counsel.

Jorgensen has avoided service in this matter while insisting on privacy in his business address, the lawyer said.

Huesman said according to the docket in this case, Jorgensen's business address is 53 Baltimore Ave., Rehoboth, Delaware.

In the case at bar, Huesman said, Jorgensen used two different addresses on his pleadings—the Delaware address and the 335 Hyacinth Way, San Rafael, California.

"Neither of the addresses is in the CNMI, and service is impossible at both," the lawyer said.

In a different case before the district court, Huesman said Jorgensen has used a third address: 405 Silverhill Rd., Walterboro, South Carolina.

Huesman said this South Carolina address appears to be nothing more than the home address of one of the individuals who Jorgensen improperly attempted to substitute as plaintiff in this matter.

Huesman said Jorgensen used a Canada address in private email to the district court's chambers and to the former secretary of Judge Alex Munson.

Additionally, the Fund counsel said, Jorgensen does not always respond to email.

Huesman said Jorgensen's claims that his "peripatetic" lifestyle precludes publicly providing the district court, and the public this court serves, with an actual business address.

"Mr. Jorgensen's desire to live a 'peripatetic' lifestyle is irrelevant to his duty to this court and the public it serves," Huesman said.

The Fund counsel said Jorgensen whether he admits it or not, is attempting to run a business venture in the CNMI.

"He is maintaining a lawsuit for commercial gain," Huesman said.

The lawyer pointed out that Jorgensen's avoidance of mail and efforts to conceal his actual address in this case appears to be similar to a divorce and child custody case he has been involved with in Palau.

"While the other case is not relevant to this case substantively, it appears to show a pattern of Mr. Jorgensen making himself unavoidable for service. This is unacceptable behavior for any office of this Court," Huesman said.

Jorgensen on behalf of two unnamed retirees filed the lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Chamber membership luncheon this Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be conducting its first general membership meeting for 2012 after swearing in its 2012 SCC officers and directors, and also announced its schedule for the SCC hosted 2012 Tax Seminar for CNMI employers.

The Chamber will hold its February general membership luncheon meeting at the Saipan World Resort on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at 12 noon. The luncheon meeting is $15 for Chamber members, $20 for guests of Chamber members, and $25 for non-Chamber members and the general public.

February's Chamber guest speaker is Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, who will address the Chamber on the 2012 CNMI budget, recent activity pertaining to the FICA social security tax status as it pertains to foreign nationals employed in the CNMI, and other issues. Also speaking will be Frank Camacho, from the CNMI Neighborhood Watch.

Chamber also announced its dates for the annual Employer Tax Seminar to be conducted by tax experts from both Deloitte and Ernst and Young. Ernst and Young will be represented by Edmund Brobesong, while Edgar Aguilar will present from Deloitte.

This year's tax seminar is scheduled for Feb. 17, from 9am to 11am and topics include tax saving strategies for the 2012 filing season, small business tax saving strategies, sourcing rules for the CNMI and information returns for 2012.

For more information, call 233-7150/52 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

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CPUC denies IT&E's requests to rehear GTA application

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has denied the requests and claims of IT&E regarding the application and entry of the GTA Services LLC in the Commonwealth.

IT&E filed a request for rehearing of the CPUC order which issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity to GTA in November, and also disputed that GTA did not make a *bona fide* request for the interconnection services.

Lone commissioner Viola Alepuyo, in two separate orders issued on Jan. 28, denied these appeals to both issues.

"Under Commonwealth law, the certification process centers on whether the issuance of certificate of public convenience and necessity is in the public interest. What is consistent with the public interest is primarily an administrative question, which is peculiarly within the commission's sound discretion. Administrative notice is taken of the Commonwealth legislature's resolution that GTA's certification is in the public interest," Alepuyo stated in her order.

The CPUC chair also ruled that IT&E's private economic interest in preserving and protecting its status as the sole provider of local exchange telephone services in the CNMI is not relevant to the public interest and gives IT&E no special right, standing or status, in this proceeding.

In its request for rehearing, Alepuyo's order stated that IT&E has made a provocatively false claim that the certification process was conducted with an utter lack of transparency, citing the various schedules and notices pertaining to GTA application process. Alepuyo disclosed that IT&E failed to timely file comments in response to these public notices, and therefore denied the said rehearing request. Because of this CPUC decision, GTA is permitted to proceed with the phase 2 activities of its application.

On the issue whether GTA filed a *bona fide* request for interconnection services, Alepuyo ruled that the company's request constitutes a bona fide request which under the law is a prerequisite for the inquiry to proceed.

IT&E claimed that GTA's request was not *bona fide* because when made on Aug. 29, 2011 GTA did not yet possess authority to provide intrastate service in the CNMI. It was only in November when the CPUC approved a certificate of public convenience and necessity to GTA which authorized the company to provide, resold and facilities-based competitive local exchange services within the Commonwealth. IT&E asserted that GTA needed this certification before its request would be considered bonafide.

Alepuyo, however, has ruled to stay the 120-day timeline, which under federal law the inquiry must be completed by CPUC, pending the reestablishment of a quorum. CPUC stopped its function on Jan. 30 due to lack of commissioners.

$2.85M interfund loan for sewer division assigned five-year payment term

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s $2.85 million interfund loan approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission for the sewer division was assigned a per annum interest rate of 2.5 percent and must be paid in five years, according to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae.

The CPUC earlier denied a proposal to increase wastewater rates of customers during its Jan. 27 meeting, citing the economic difficulty being experience by ratepayers.

But in recognizing the important function and continuous operation of the utilities company, CPUC had approved the electric base rate and water rate petitions, including reduction in the current levelized energy adjustment clause.

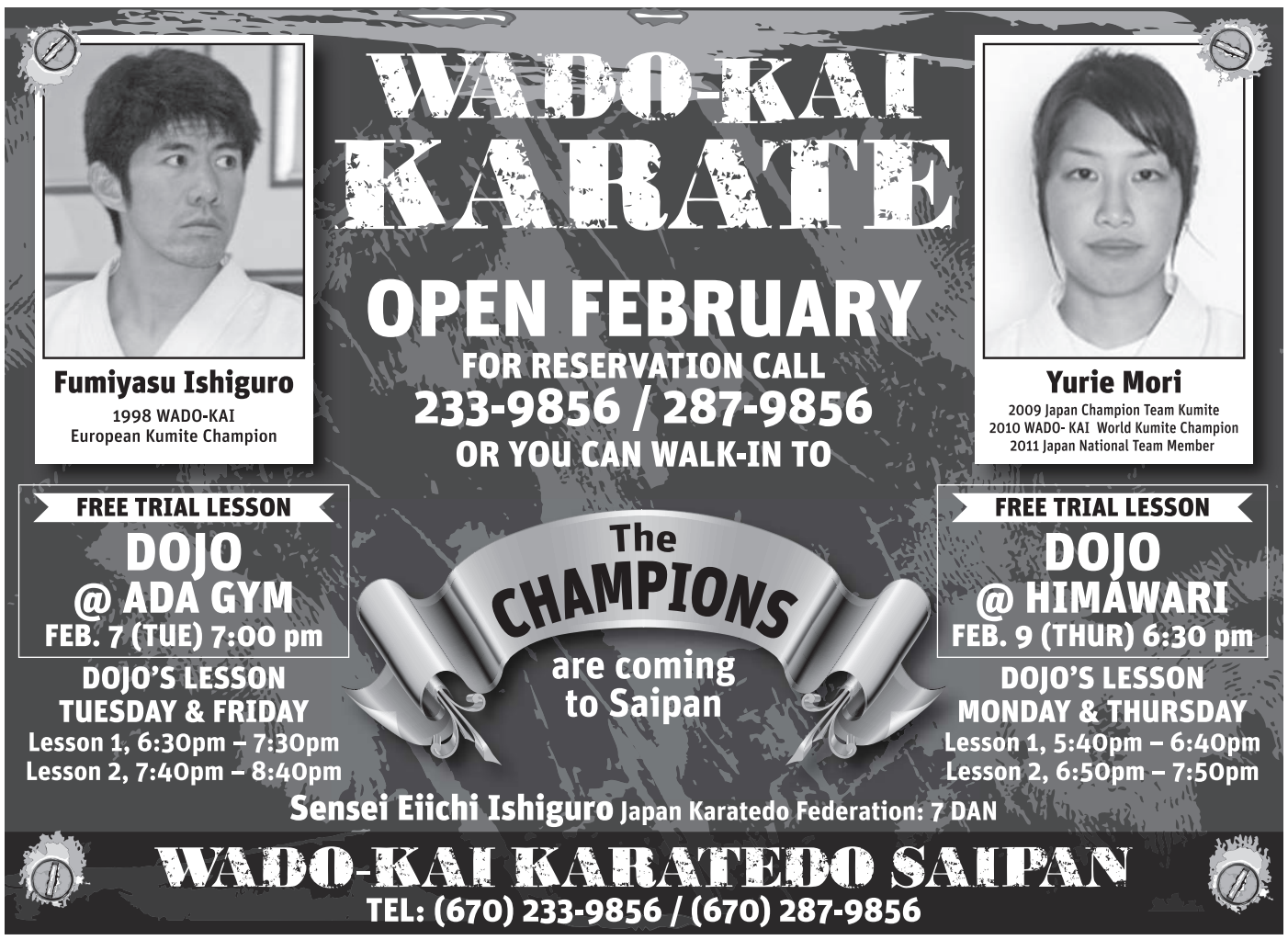
According to Malae, the interdivisional loan is a method to provide assistance to the wastewater division and which will not result in a cross-subsidization of services through the rate.

He said there is no other source CUC has been able to identify which could provide a loan for CUC to operate its sewer division at a cost which would be fair to CUC customers, and which would be consonant with the legislative policy of Public Law 16-17. This law states that CUC has the corporate responsibility and its customers have the right to reliable service at stable and affordable rates.

"While termed a loan, this inter-divisional loan does not constitute borrowing as set forth [by 4 CMC 8123]. There will be no adverse impact on the balance sheet of the corporation. This is because under the accepted accounting standard of consolidation, the corporation's books will remain revenue neutral. CUC's accounting department will account for the payments which are attributable to the loan," explained Malae, adding that the logic for the loan is to defer the fuel expense in conjunction with sewer costs pending implementation of CUC's master plan.

Under this plan, additional wastewater customers will be connected to the system and therefore enable the division to spread the loan repayment over a substantially larger customer class.

The $2.85 million, Malae said, will be made available to CUC's sewer division from the electric division and the loan will be used by the electric division as credit against the municipal pumping charge which it will bill the wastewater division for electric service.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Parole Hearing

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and LT. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **February 9, 2012, (Thursday)** beginning at **8:30 A.M.,** at the **Vicente Taman Seman Building, Department of Corrections, Briefing/Training Room,** Susupe, Saipan.

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda

III. Parole Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Andave M. Camacho	11-006	10-0179C
2. Rolando E. Pude	11-007	10-0211D
3. Alston H. Santos	11-008	10-0166E
IV. Re-Application	**BOP No.**	**Criminal Case No.**
1. Sanito Estrera	11-RA-001	08-0106

V. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 01/24/2012

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Executive Meeting

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992". Notice is hereby given that a **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **February 8, 2012, (Wednesday)** beginning at **10:00 A.M.,** at the **Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building No. 1216, Saipan.**

The following items are included in the agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Presence of Quorum

II. Consent Items
1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Executive Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2011

III. New Business
A) Chairman's Report
B) Chief of Parole Report
C) FY 2012 Budget Status
a) Current Fund Status
b) Current Allotment
c) Calendar of Meetings & Hearings
D) Board Policy on the Conduct of Executive Meeting and Parole Hearings
E) Board Comments and Recommendation
Re: To create the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Prison Industries Act of 2011
F) Request for Comments on House Bill 17-249

IV. Old Business
a. Dwayne Sibetang
b. Parolee Victor Flores

V. Miscellaneous
1. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

If you have any question, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

Date: 01/24/2012

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (December 9, 2011)

II. CORRESPONDENCES

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee
   a. Appeals Decision

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. NMI Retirement Fund v. CNMI Judgment Collection Case Impact
2. Update on Personnel Rules and Regulations Revisions
3. Personnel Matter: Employment Contract Renewals
4. Personnel Matter: Approval of Position Description
5. Incinerator and Triturator Rates
6. Tasi Tours Request
7. Douglas Cushnie's Request
8. SSFM
9. SN-5's proposal for Aquaculture on Tinian
10. M/V Sun Rider's speed inside the Harbor

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

February 3, 2012

Grand Hotel owners oppose EEOC motion for new trial

The owners of Saipan Grand Hotel have asked the district court to deny for lack of legal merit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's motion for a new trial in its sexual harassment lawsuit against the hotel owners that it had accused of subjecting a band singer to a sexually hostile work environment.

Attorney Steven P. Pixley, counsel for defendants Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. and Tan Holdings Corp., said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona permitted the testimony of their witness, Melinda Javier, subject to well-reasoned parameters surrounding the scope of her employment.

The district court has broad discretion in permitting or excluding the testimony of witnesses not appearing on witness lists, said Pixley in the defendants' opposition to EEOC's motion for new trial.

Pixley asserted that EEOC's assault on Javier's credibility is not supported by evidence.

On Dec. 20, 2011, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the Asia Pacific and Tan Holdings.

Last month, EEOC, through trial attorney Derek W. Li, filed the motion for a new trial. Li asserted that the defendants' late disclosure of Javier as a trial witness substantially interfered with the EEOC's fair presentation of its case.

Li said that five days before trial and more than 10 months after the fact-discovery cutoff, the defendants notified the EEOC that they planned to call Javier as a witness to impeach the singer, Michell Bunoan.

Javier had testified during the trial that she saw Bunoan and her alleged harasser, former Grand Hotel restaurant manager Roberto "Tom" Alegre, hugging each other in two separate occasions.

Alegre, who is now based in the Philippines, insists that he had a consensual relationship with Bunoan.

In defendants' opposition to the motion, Pixley said that, on Dec. 6, 2011 he learned that Javier possessed relevant evidence directly impeaching the prior sworn deposition testimony and prior written statements of Bunoan.

"Notwithstanding the Defendants belief that they were not required to disclose this impeachment witness prior to trial, the Defendants, nonetheless, elected to advise Plaintiff's counsel and the District Court of the existence of this witness and the substance of her anticipated testimony," Pixley said.

Accordingly, Pixley said, the EEOC was advised of this new witness during a recess of the pre-trial conference in this civil proceeding on Dec. 7, 2011.

The lawyer said later that same day, he advised the court that the defendants intended to call Javier as a witness during the trial.

In addition, Pixley said, on Dec. 8, 2011 he caused a letter to be delivered to EEOC counsel confirming defendants' intent to call Javier as an impeachment witness.

Pixley said Javier appeared at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Dec. 10, 2011 for an interview with EEOC counsel that lasted for approximately one hour.

On Dec. 10, 2011, the defendants filed a motion to permit the impeachment testimony of Javier. EEOC objected to the motion.

On Dec. 15, 2011, Manglona granted the motion to permit the testimony of Javier subject to well-reasoned restrictions.

Pixley said in line with Manglona's ruling, Javier testified on Dec. 15, 2011.

Pixley said Javier's testimony that she saw Bunoan and Alegre embracing on two separate occasions clearly impeaches Bunoan's deposition testimony.

Pixley said EEOC seeks to buttress its claim of prejudice by suggesting that Javier lied about seeing an advertisement in the *Saipan Tribune* which led her to apply for a job at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Pixley said EEOC represents that Javier testified that "she came back to work at the Saipan Grand Hotel in December 2011 after she learned about the job opportunity through *Saipan Tribune* in November 2011.

EEOC pointed out that its investigation after the trial reveals that the *Saipan Tribune* did not publish any ads of a supervisor position in November 2011.

Pixley, however, noted that EEOC's counsel in the cross-examination of Javier asked the witness if she had seen an ad in the newspaper.

Pixley said Javier's replied "Yes. That's the month of November, something like that."

Pixley said the use of equivocal words "something like that" weighs against a finding that Javier was being untruthful.

The lawyer noted that as acknowledged by the EEOC, an advertisement was published in the *Saipan Tribune* for a supervisor position as late as Oct. 28, 2011.

"The EEOC's reliance on this feeble argument as a foundation for its claim of prejudice powerfully demonstrates the weakness of its motion," Pixley stressed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FOR ALLEGEDLY HARASSING WITNESSES IN GUN SHOOTING CASE

Wiseman finds probable cause to charge arrested ex-businessman

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against Juan B. Roberto, a former businessman who was arrested last Jan. 26 for allegedly harassing two witnesses in his prior gun shooting case.

During Friday's preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the crimes of two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal contempt were committed.

Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the person who may have committed such offenses is the 52-year-old Roberto.

The judge ordered Roberto to answer the charges.

Arraignment will be today, Monday, at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing represented the government at the hearing, while attorney Rosemond Santos is counsel for the defendant.

Roberto has been in custody for failing to post a $100,000 cash bail.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that two women who are witnesses and victims in a prior case involving the defendant were at their residence in Dandan last Jan. 26 when Roberto began shouting in front of his house, next to the two women's house.

Roberto then allegedly drove his pickup truck recklessly in front and around the two women's residence. He accelerated the engine, causing the tires to spin, burning rubber. At the same time he was shouting profanities out the window of his truck.

One of the women tried to leave the house with her daughter, but as she was backing her car out of the garage, Roberto approached her side of the car holding a coconut.

The other woman remained inside the house and locked the front door. The women in the car quickly left, at the same time calling a detective on her cell phone.

Police officers responded and arrested Roberto. Both women were shaking with fear and were on the verge of tears when the officers arrived, police said.

Last Jan. 22, police also arrested Roberto at his residence for domestic violence. He allegedly admitted to firing off three live rounds of an unregistered gun in the presence of his girlfriend.

In July 2011, Wiseman issued a temporary restraining order against Roberto for allegedly making threatening gestures to attorney David Banes after a hearing on a contempt issue. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
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FINANCIAL AUDITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF12-005

OPENING DATE: February 6, 2012 **CLOSING DATE: March 8, 2012**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax No. 670-664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

There will be a pre-proposal conference on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 9:00 am in the Fund Conference Room, Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing to Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator, Fax No. (670) 664-8080 or emailed to administrator01@nmiretirement.com, no later than February 16, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

//s// Richard S. Villagomez
Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-007

SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email larrry.manacop@cucgov.org or Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

PDI's Matsumura bids *sayonara* to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura will soon be joining the ranks of notable Japanese personages in the community who have left Saipan after calling this tiny rock in the Pacific their home for decades.

A native of Osaka, Japan, Matsumura is scheduled to fly back to Tokyo on Feb. 24 after almost three decades of assimilating into an islander's way of life and becoming a favorite among the locals who have considered him one of their own.

In an interview Friday at the Hafadau Beach Hotel, home to the main office of PDI which mainly caters to the travel arrangement needs of its clientele, Matsumura said he will continue to serve in the tourism industry by working in the overseas department of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd. or KNT.

Matsumura's 27 years of experience at PDI, a subsidiary of KNT, will prove to be invaluable as he takes on his new venture which, hopefully, would include promoting the CNMI as a destinations to their Japanese customers.

Matsumura revealed how he is having "mixed feelings" about saying *sayonara* to the Commonwealth.

"I don't want to leave because I really like this island and the people here. I like my staff, who is like a family. That's why it's really hard for me to go back to Japan where I only had eight years of work experience," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Matsumura, who became the eighth president of PDI about five years ago, talked about what he will miss about the island where he spent half of his life.

"I enjoy my relationship working with people here. It's a small island; everybody knows each other. I will miss everything not just Saipan but the entire CNMI," said Matsumura, 53.

He gives credit to all PDI staff past and present, who trained him to become better in his profession. From over 100 employees, Matsumura now only has about eight staffers under him.

"They are the foundation of the company, that's why I don't have to worry. My replacement is also coming and I'm very much comfortable with that. As long as the people will stay, there's nothing for him to worry because they're easy to manage. They know their responsibilities and they know what to do," said Matsumura.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

After making Saipan his home for 27 years, Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura will be moving back to Japan on Feb. 24 to work for PDI's mother company, Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. Ltd.

His replacement, Masanori Takahashi, will be officially introduced to the community during Matsumura's "see you again" party—not farewell "because otherwise, I cannot come back," said Matsumura, who expressed every intention of going back to the island which he has called home.

Matsumura's time in the Commonwealth was not devoted entirely to work alone. He became actively involved in the community, volunteering his time in different organizations and serving under different capacities.

Matsumura became vice chair of the Japan Saipan Travel Association from 1999 to 2003, currently the board treasurer of the Marianas Visitors Authority, a member of the Marianas Tourism Education Council since 2002, a member of the Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas and the Saipan Rotary Club, a board of director of the Northern Marianas College Foundation since 2004, vice president of the Marianas Walking Association, and an advisor for Team PDI, a non-profit group founded by individuals who believe in extending monitory and in-kind contributions to those in need of support.

Matsumura gladly accepted membership invitations from these organizations because he deems himself a "bridge" that would foster the good relationship between Japan and the CNMI. He also takes pride in having established a relationship with Chinese, Korean, and U.S. markets.

PDI director Gordon Marciano, who has worked with Matsumura since the late '80s, said he sees Matsumura's new role with KNT means a new venture for the CNMI's tourism industry. "He's been with us for so long that I know that we will maintain communication with him," he said.

Marciano described Matsumura as that person "who's always pushing the tourism industry" and works with local radio station KKMP as he believes in the important role of the radio in promoting the islands.

Matsumura's important lessons, Marciano said, are to remember that CNMI has all the natural resources it needs to be a popular tourist destination and that there is a constant need to bring in new attractions via air, land, and sea so that visitors are encouraged to come back for more island experience.

"He always tells me, nothing is impossible," added Marciano.

Matsumura said he is excited to be outside of the CNMI looking in to enable him to think of better ways to promote the Commonwealth.

"I only see from here to Japan. I don't see from Japan to here, which makes the big difference. It's a new challenge but I know CNMI more than anybody else in Japan that's why it's a good opportunity," he said.

Matsumura added, "I really appreciate the CNMI and PDI for giving me an opportunity to challenge a lot of things. My goal is to get new experience in Japan and help CNMI. To do it quickly will be impossible but I will do it."

Matsumura's popularity is evident in the number of parties that will be hosted for him. But PDI will be hosting the main party for Matsumura on Feb. 15 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall.

Those who are interested to attend the party and belong to organizations may RSVP with their respective coordinators. Non-members are asked to confirm attendance and pay the entrance fee on or before Feb. 10 by calling Marciano at 287-1195 or PDI's Ruby Acosta at 322-8786.

Judge Manglona frees convicted man in jail for more than 6 months

The district court yesterday continued the sentencing of a man who was found guilty of trying to sneak aboard a Los Angeles-bound flight using fake documents, but freed the defendant since he has been in custody for more than six months now although the maximum recommended sentence is only six months.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona continued the sentence of Dongjun Li to Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 8am, as she is currently presiding over an ongoing jury trial in a separate civil case.

The U.S. government and defense attorney Mark Scoggins did not object to the delay of sentencing.

Manglona ordered Li be released, subject to possible detention by U.S. immigration in connection with a removal case.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton and Scoggins did not object for Li's release.

The U.S. Probation Office has requested the federal court to continue Li's sentencing originally set for yesterday to Feb. 15, 2012. Scoggins, however, objected to the request because his client been in jail for more than six months already.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita D. Wonenberg said the continuance will allow the probation officer to respond to Li's objections filed on Jan. 25 and 27, 2012.

But Scoggins said if the request is granted, Li will have been in custody for seven months by the time he is sentenced.

"Under Mr. Li's interpretation of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, he has already served longer than the maximum recommended sentence of six months," Scoggins said.

Judge Manglona agreed with Scoggins and denied the U.S. Probation's request.

A federal jury last October found Li, a Chinese national, guilty of immigration fraud and false statement.

The document fraud was related to Li's possession and use of fake parole documents when he tried to check in for a trip to California on July 15, 2011, at the Saipan International Airport. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 6, 2003

NMC's deficient audits alarm WASC

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges has expressed concern over the deficient audit reports submitted by the Northern Marianas College for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999. It gave the college up to May 31, 2003 to correct these so-called deficiencies. "We received a letter from the WASC commissioner expressing concern on this," said NMC president Kenneth Wright, adding that his office will respond to the commission before the due date. Wright said the WASC noted that the college may not be in compliance for Standard 9 (fiscal management) and Standard 5 (student records). "These are the old standards. These have been modified last June, but those are the issues [fiscal and student records] referred to," he added.

EMO plans to dig up ordnance

The Emergency Management Office yesterday said it would dig up dozens of ordnances on different locations on Saipan, including San Roque. EMO response and recovery coordinator Anthony Tenorio said residents who recently spotted several pieces of live projectiles were afraid that they might explode and just covered the explosives with soil. "They were scared and they just covered it up," Tenorio said. "They're still underground." Tenorio said EMO would be using the Department of Public Works' backhoe in unearthing the ordnances. Tenorio estimated the number of explosives at 50. The ordnance recovery would take place next week, said Tenorio.

Feb. 6, 2004

MVA and GVB to promote NMI at RP TravelTour Expo

The Marianas Visitors Authority is gearing up for the 11th TravelTour Expo slated for Feb. 6-8, 2004 in Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The expo is organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association, the largest travel association in the country. Deemed to be the largest and most prestigious travel trade show in the Philippines, the event was organized to encourage unity in the travel industry and to promote the interests of its members and the traveling public. The MVA, in partnership with the Guam Visitors Bureau, will be sharing booth space at this year's expo, where they will showcase the attractiveness of the CNMI and Guam to business and leisure travelers. The MVA delegation includes Directors JM Guerrero and Edward Maratita, Public relations & Community programs Manager Martin Duenas, and Marketing assistant Brenda Repeki.

CNMI taps federal tax funds

The Babauta administration yesterday disclosed that it has obtained federal funds from previously untapped sources at the U.S. Treasury. In a media statement released by the Attorney General's Office, the government disclosed receiving some $210,000 so far from federal coffers. "Under the terms and provisions of the Covenant to establish the Northern Mariana Islands, the CNMI is entitled to cover over tax funds paid into the U.S. Treasury by CNMI," the media release stated. Attorney General Pamela Brown said the CNMI expects to receive additional federal monies this year. The AGO and the CNMI Department of Finance, together with the Governor's Office, managed to unearth the funding source, according to the media statement. Gov. Juan N. Babauta has reportedly entered into an understanding with the federal Treasury in connection with the payment of the funds.

Feb. 6, 2005

Admin to disclose Babauta's CUC reprogramming

The Fitial administration will issue a report on the extent of funds reprogramming for the financially troubled Commonwealth Utilities Corp by former Gov. Juan N. Babauta. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said Friday that such a report would be completed in 30 days. "We hope to have it in 30 days. We'll immediately provide this information to the Legislature. It's the information that we had been asking the previous administration but was never given to us," said Villagomez.

MPLA spends nearly $50K in travel costs last month

Travel costs of the Marianas Public Lands Authority, including per diem fees of employees, reached nearly $50,000 in January 2006, based on documents released by the agency. The bulk of some $48,841.60 in travel expenses came from the Seattle, Washington trip of board chair Ana Demapan-Castro, member Nicolas Nekai and commissioner Edward DeLeon Guerrero.

CNMI Water Task Force
IFB12-GOV-035

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 9, 2012**.

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 20, 2012** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Lease of Warehouse", IFB12-GOV-035**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M. , local time, on February 7, 2012** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Invitation for Bids
IFB12-GOV-037

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 23, 2012**.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **February 3, 2012**, at the CNMI Water **Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, February 2, 2012**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked "**IFB12-GOV-037**". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 21, 2012**, and must be received no later than **March 1, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 5, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:30 pm local time on **February 21, 2012**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 237 E 02, containing an area of approximately 5,751 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino, and Mr. Paul Zak.

The Officers of the Corporation area Mr. Joseph Borja – President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino – Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Zak – Secretary / Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Joseph Borja and Mr. Anthony Pellegrino.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a USDA certified meat slaughtering facility and related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years. The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 14, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku heneråt siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. 237 E 02, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 5,751 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation . I Direktot i Corporation siha si Siñot Joseph Borja, Siñot Anthony Pellegrino, yan si Siñot Paul Zak.

I Ufisiålis siha gi årian Corporation si Siñot Joseph Borja – Presidenti , si Siñot Anthony Pellegrino - i Tresureru, yan si Siñot Paul Zak - Sekritåriu /Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Joseph Borja yan Siñot Anthony Pellegrino.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan operating i fasilidåt i USDA certified meat slaughtering yan i mana'achuli' na aktibidåt siha.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Fibreru 14, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng, data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 237 E. 02, eyoor Limwoow Sangaras, Fisabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(5,751 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap(Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. Direkktoodol Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino me Mr. Paul Zak.

Schóól officers il Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja-President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino-Treasurer, me Mr. Paul Zak-Secretary/Vice President

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja me Mr. Anthony Pellegrino

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me angaanga eew leliyal lil maal iye USDA certified me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Febrero 14, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, ngare Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 30

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Apple must set a higher bar for worker safety

Over the years, Apple has built a loyal following because of its ingenuity and willingness to buck norms. Its customer base tends to be highly educated, concerned about conditions in foreign countries and affluent enough to afford the latest, cool new Apple product—such as an iPad or iPhone.

Yet many of Apple's most devoted customers are angry at the moment, and rightfully so. Last week, the *New York Times* published a searing expose of worker conditions at Apple subcontractor plants in China, where iPads and other Apple devices are assembled.

Many Americans are oblivious about factory conditions in China, partly because that country makes it hard for workers to report abuses and for outside groups to monitor them. But the Times was able to document an appalling pattern of worker mistreatment by Apple subcontractors at several factories, including ones owned by Foxconn Technology, one of Apple's biggest partners worldwide.

The list of abuses includes workers exposed to poisonous chemicals; workers forced to work excessive overtime seven days a week; workers stuffed into overcrowded dorms and laboring at risk of deadly explosions. Within seven months last year, the Times reports, four people were killed and 77 injured in two explosions, including one at a site where employees polish thousands of iPad cases each day.

As the *Times* noted, others have documented grim working conditions at factories affiliated with Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Sony and other tech firms.

Apple put itself ahead of many companies by adopting a code of conduct in 2005 that has led the company to audit subcontractors, report problems and reveal plans for preventing violations. In its latest report, Apple reports: "We have a zero-tolerance policy for underage labor, and we believe our system is the toughest in the electronics industry. In 2011, we broadened our age verification program and saw dramatic improvements in hiring practices by our suppliers."

All that is good, but if you comb through Apple's reports from previous years, you'll find numerous vague references to unnamed suppliers who committed violations. That kind of obfuscation makes it hard for outside groups to verify the company's findings, particularly its claims of improved conditions at certain plants.

Even more troubling is Apple CEO Tim Cook's response to the *New York Times* story. In an email to employees, Cook didn't dispute any factual findings in the report, but he sounded personally insulted that anyone would question Apple's commitment to worker safety in its supply chain.

"Any suggestion that we don't care is patently false and offensive to us," Cook wrote. "As you know better than anyone, accusations like these are contrary to our values."

What should be really offensive to Cook and Apple is not accusations but reality. All too often, Apple's products are built on the backs of overseas workers who are mistreated, overworked and exposed to dangerous work environments.

Yes, Apple is ahead of many companies in monitoring and correcting problems. But it is also the fastest growing of any tech company. The sheer volume of products it assembles and sells—especially in a country as sprawling and closeted as China—posits questions about whether Apple can track abuses in real time.

On the other hand, Apple is known for achieving the unimaginable and holding itself to higher standards. Any company that can create something as innovative as the iPad should be able to ensure its supply chain protects the environment and human dignity.

There ought to be an app for that.

(c)2012 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)

2012—The year of protests in the CNMI

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Let 2012 be our CNMI protest year against the social and economic injustices that are binding us from progressing to a better life. If we do not begin now the situation can only get worse. If we want change we must follow the examples of the rest of the world that started protesting in various countries.

Last year we saw a series of protests around the world against unjust governments, unjust leaders, unequal wealth distribution, and lack of jobs. The protests were aimed also at discrimination and other unjust acts perpetrated on us the people. Finally we the people are waking up as though from a long slumber and beginning to realize that we the people must help ourselves and stop relying upon governments to do it for us. Let me quote from an article in the Dec. 26, 2011 issue of *Time Magazine* written by Rick Stengel.

"No one could have known that when a Tunisian fruit vendor set himself on fire in a public square in a town barely on a map, he would spark protests that would bring down dictators in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya and rattle regimes in Syria, Yemen, and Bahrain. Or that spirit of dissent would spur Mexicans to rise up against the terror of drug cartels, Greeks to march against unaccountable leaders, Americans to occupy public spaces to protest income inequality, and Russians to marshal themselves against a corrupt autocracy. Protests have now occurred in countries whose population total at least 3 billion people.…"

"Everywhere, it seems, people said they've had enough. They dissented; they demanded; they did not despair, even when the answers came back in a cloud of tear gas or a hail of bullets. They literally embodied the idea that individual action can bring collective, colossal change. And although it was understood differently in different places, the idea of democracy was present in every gathering…." [The protests were human ones, of hearts and minds.]

"The root of the word democracy is the people rule. And they did, if not at the ballot box, then in the streets. America is a nation conceived in protest, and protest is in some ways the source code for democracy—and evidence of the lack of it…. Everywhere this year, people have complained about the failure of traditional leadership and the fecklessness of institutions. Politicians cannot look beyond the next election and they refuse to make hard choices…. But leadership has come from the bottom of the pyramid, not the top."

It is worth rereading the above quotation to fully appreciate its deep meaning. I have discussed the need for a revolution to stimulate changes. Now I am strongly advocating protests. We must change our attitudes and understand that today is NOT yesterday! We, the people, must demand what we want and need. Our protest must be strong and determined. Our government will not give us what WE WANT but WHAT THEY WANT!

It takes only ONE of US to start the protest which will change our lives! The rest of us must follow! Glance over history and see how one man or woman has made a dramatic change in our lives.

Recall that Occupy Wall Street is the original protest that began the worldwide movement Sept. 17, 2011 in Zuccoti Park, located in New York City's Wall Street financial district. The protests are against social and economic inequality, high unemployment and economic inequality, greed and the undue influence of corporations on government. "We Are the 99 percent" their slogan, refers to the growing income and wealth inequality in the U.S. and wealthiest 1 percent and the rest of the population, the 99 percent.

Do we have similar situations in the CNMI? Is there undue influence upon our elected officials? Is there greed? Is there corruption? Is there a widening rift between the haves and have nots? Is there growing unemployment of our local citizens? Why has 22 percent of our population deserted the island? Why are so many homes being foreclosed especially ones from MIHA? Why does our island look like a ghost town with so many empty buildings? Why is this happening? Does anyone care? These and more questions like these demand an answer.

This year we will be electing new representatives to the Legislature. Will we do the same we do every year: vote for our relatives good or bad? Will we demand reforms or will we just remain silent? Will we reelect the good old boys who make politics a career job without proving that they are worth it? Will we protest by demanding new faces and fresh approaches to our problems? Think about why people began to protest in New York City and in the rest of the world. Don't we have similar concerns?

Consider some of the unjust and discriminatory actions. Why do government workers average about $9 per hour plus a great pension (at least before), yet those of us that do similar work in the private sector earn only $5.05 per hour? What happened to our once bountiful pension fund? Why is this being tolerated?

Another major concern is that the government seems only concerned about restoring their employees to 40 work weeks, yet does nothing to creating more jobs in the private sector. Yet daily more and more people enter the food stamp program. Why aren't they

See 2012 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A culture of health

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

At SVES we had a young upstart demanding that he be allowed to chew betel nut because that was his "culture," accusing PSS of depriving him of his "constitutional" right to chew and spew!

The issue of culture is paramount in any consideration of the interaction between economics, politics, and culture (all typologies are mental creations, categories referring to the same thing, only looking at it from a different perspective).

Let us designate "economics: as that-without-which there is no life. This involves resources, production of goods, and the distribution of services.

"Politics" is relational, encompassing the decision-making process that allocates resources, designates the ways of labor and ownership of the means of production, and valuates the benefits in the distribution of goods and services produced. It is social and leads to order, justice and welfare.

"Culture" gives meaning, allocates the relative value and significance of things, society and the way life is. It encompasses individual and social wisdom, establishes individual and social life-styles, forms stories, songs, and symbols.

All three dynamics are ongoing any given time. As a rule of thumb, we designate the "real" stuff as economic, the "relational" stuff as political, and the "significating" stuff as the cultural.

In our time, cultural wisdom provides us with three perspectives: the transcendent (comprehensive view from a distance), the immanent (the impact from within), and the transparent (the view from the reflection of a mirror or an image).

Our claim is that culture is key to economic and political change.

The starting point in current economic thought is that we decide on the basis of scarcity. The notion that food production will never catch up with population growth is ingrained; since there is not enough to go around, we fall into the survival of the fittest. Thus, competition is justified as a cornerstone of capitalist economics.

Economics in Social Studies measures "opportunity cost," looks at the value of what we did not choose. This is looking at a bottle half empty rather than half full. We also look at "marginal and sunk cost," when one activity is repeated, along with "profit opportunities" where we seek positions of advantage through efficiency in order to be ahead of the competition.

Economics is understood as the equation of supply and demand, on the assumption that demand will always exceed supply. When need insufficiently fuels demand, we manipulate "wants," the basis of marketing and sales procedures.

Decision-making is representational. We elect someone to represent our will and s/he decides on our behalf. This was proper when it took a month for someone to travel to the halls of deliberations, e.g., a California Rep getting to the U.S. Congress in 1850, but at a time when we can relay our thoughts at the click of an electronic digital mouse, democracy can be broader and instant.

If we decide that our cultural priority is the promotion of health of all living and non-living things on planet earth, the economic focus would be on the abundance and sufficiency of natural, human and technological resources, rather than its scarcity. We would inventory, conserve and protect 'what is' rather than speculate and exploit the perceive value of "what is not." Health of each individual is the immanent perspective, the health of the planet takes the transcendent view.

What happens if we accept the interdependence of diverse interests and operate structures that honor the perspectives of all? The males of the specie still take upon themselves to decide everyone's life, yet females produce half of the agricultural output, but only get a 10th of the profit, and own only one percent of the resource.

We need to establish glocal communities of interdependence that hopes for liberte, egalite, fraternite for everyone. Our economics no longer follow lines of the nation-state yet we are organized as if we are still entities of colonial administrations. Protectionism is passé yet it is widely practiced, legislating protection from the efforts of those beyond our national boundaries. Glocal thinking recognizes the reality of the present rather than wish for the continuation of the past.

Our common story of scarcity, clash of civilizations, and impending end times, guide our behavioral patterns. This story is humanly conceived; it can be unconceived.

We asked previously what we can do with the influence of 'money' as the organizing measure of our economic, political and cultural life. A lot. First, acknowledge addiction to money and its illusions of value, then, enlarge our human search for health, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual, beyond numbers in our bank accounts, and meaning beyond the adrenaline rush from Peoples magazine and the Sports pages, especially today's Super Bowl. Second, we broaden participation in creating new communities, e pluribus unum, where we belong and everyone knows our name. Third, we heed the authority of authenticity rather than rely on the moneyed hero as leaders, or calcify our allegiance to sacred traditions for precedence.

A cultural revolution in human consciousness is needed, and it starts in each of us.

Finatton Tiempon Ha'ilas

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

'Nai bula keble-ta, kulan hit apacha' ni sige lumiliku' bumoka katket lugat. Sige ha chatge i edut ni kana' pumupunu'gue' man-lofan mantension para i fanliheñgña. Sige talu gumupu, bumoka, gumimen kulan mohon taya' agupa'.

Mattu tiempon maneñgheñg ya tinampe todu i plaset cha'guan ni ais (snow). Matai ñalañg i apacha sa' ti muna' sahñge gi tiempon abundansia. Gaige i edut na kada ñalañg chumochu ni hagas rinikohiña siha mantension. Kulan taiguhe i apacha' finaposta.

■ ■ ■ ■

Gigigu finatton ha'ilas yan tiempun maipe. Hasan uchan para hanom magimen 'sino tinanum. Mas menos i hanom gi tipu' siha. Dumispasiu mas i fuetsan grifu hombre ke unu para u mahahatsa talu i apas.

Yangin apmam ha sagaye hit este na tiempun maipe, pues megai na tinanom u fan nina' tostus kontodu cha'guan siha gi kanton chalan yan sabana. U saunau tostus lokue' i betde na papet gi halom pottanmoneda-ta. De dios mihu!

■ ■ ■ ■

I didog na dibision gi entalu' covenant yan republican un' asuntu na makat ma-esgaihon gi halom inkabukau yan chubasko na tasi. Todu i dos kapitan achacha abaramtau pokat niha kumu timuneru gi halom pagyu, makeke suhaye un' dañkulun paderon gi sanmena. Taya' kampu para satbasion ya u dimalas parehu gigon ha sufa' paderon binibun publiku gi sanmena.

■ ■ ■ ■

Listu iya Israet para u ataka iya Iran gi ti apmam na tiempu pot para u yamag fasilidat mamatinas man-dañosu siha na bala ni siña dumanche iya Amerika. Yangin u masusede este, pues mas lokue' gumuaguan i presiun laña gi enteru elmundu.

Kontodu hita guine siempre ta padese mas guaguan na apas hanom yan kandet. Ti namatman yangin i munanae' hit laña ensegidas ha hatsa presiuña pot i kulan asegurau i mananañga na gera. Los uttimos, mas menos na laña u guaha gi metkao enteru elmundo.

■ ■ ■ ■

Mampos te'ug pinadesen megai gi tautau-ta na esta ti manmalagu' man-manguife. Hombre amiguhu lau figu' as Buddy Magoo. Ilegña, Esta puru ha' pinadesen pisadiya deste ke maribaha oraña gi che'chu'. Ni para fahan lateria (setbessa) hokog!

Ilegña na dinanche ayu na estoria pot apacha' yan i edut. Duru hit man-gupu sinparat 'nai machuchuda' koble ginen betsata. "Ti ta poluye dididi' para 'an ha gacha' hit induktun tiempu". Ilegña lokue' na guaha 'nai mapot-gue' maigu' pot no u pisadiya talu. De dios ihu!

■ ■ ■ ■

Payun-yu' poble sa' hagas susomyan pineble 'nai dumañkuluyu'. Megai lokue gi entre hamyu fumaposgue mismu sumen chatsaga na chalan. Ginen este na finaposta mina tanae' animu pot no ta repite gi famaguonta linala' miserable. Atan mona ya un' konsige hinanaumu.

■ ■ ■ ■

'Nai hana huyuñg i Saina i tautau, ha pega mataña gi sanmena pot para u lie' mona kareraña. Lau guaha man-masoda' na tautague gi Hegsu' i Deni mangaige matan niha gi santatte. Man-mariseseta pagu gi hospitat kau nuebu na peste 'sino chetnut i matan santatte. Adahe na chetnut tamya yan reput? A` Saina!

■ ■ ■ ■

Siña ha' dikiki, lau mauleg na tinituhon gi todu islas guine maabiban kutturan tanu' gi sentru siha. Deste finatinas attista, amot fresku, manñge' na sentadan natibu, yan otru siha finatinas gi hilu' satton na presentasion. Ginen este 'nai ta huhuñgog i liñguahita diariu. Ta usa gi hilu' konbetsasion 'nai mahuñgog lokue' ni famaguonta. Solu uttimu sasyan 'nai siña ta abiba mas i kuttura yan tradision tano'ta.

■ ■ ■ ■

Umasoda'yu' yan un' edukau na Chamorro ni mafañagu giya Los Angeles. Macho'chu' dispues giya Guam, tatkilu' puestoña lau dimalas sa' tiha tuñgu liñguahiña fuera ke finadeni, kelaguen manog yan titiyas harina. Paire i finu' Iñglis lau na seguru na un' tuñgu' finenina hila'mu.

■ ■ ■ ■

Guaha ha' ayu i man-ande man-finu' Chamorro ginen i bisinu ni man-mamatinas finu' Chamorron niha mismu. Pot ihemplo, ilegña un' prohima na "mamarientes" (man-parientes) hit pat kumulelegmu (kumeke ilegmu) punu (kumu) yan otra siha chatdinanche na finu' natibu. Prekura i dinanche na finu' Chamorro 'sino kontodu famaguonta mahoka i lache kumu usun diariu.

2012

From Page 10

being motivated to learn a skill or trade which our community badly needs? Have we forgotten that December 31, 2014, most non-local workers will be forced to go home? What do we do then?It appears that our leaders major concern is that casinos will solve all our economic problems. Has anyone studied the effects of casinos in Tinian over the past ten years? Has Rota prospered with their attempts at casino rolling? Are the people in both islands better off than we because of casinos? Is there any proof showing that casinos will solve our economic problems? How many of our jobless or non-skilled people will these casinos employ? Why do we accept this approach so passively? What is happening to our hospital and our medical needs?

These are only a few of the problems that are beseeching us for solutions. Please understand, I am asking all of us to think about our problems and decide to do something about them. I am not complaining just because I don't like them. We must stand up in unison and demand changes if we want changes.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we are to become economically strong again, we must begin to cultivate home industries such as agriculture and aquaculture and fishing. We must begin to make value-added products with our fruits and produce. Then to really bring much needed money, we must export these items to other countries. We must lessen our dependency on imports and increase exports.

Tonight when we go to bed let us think for a few minutes of the thousands of our fellow citizens standing over the beds of their children with their heads bowed and tears in their eyes thinking: "How and where am I going to get enough money to feed these children? When will I have a decent job?"

Will we say: "There but for the grace of God go I." Will we then just shrug our shoulders, turn off the lights and forget about them. Remember anyone of us may be next.

Join with me in protesting this injustice and inequality. Economic improvement can become a reality when we all begin to work in unison and believe in our ability to help ourselves. Why do I believe so fervently that we have many opportunities to help ourselves? Because I have seen them since my arrival to these blessed islands.

Join with me and LET'S DO IT! We have acres of diamonds under our feet. Let us dig them up and restore our pride and dignity. Stop the handouts. Let's get off our buts (excuses) and DO IT NOW!

Don't forget to throw giant SMILES at each other when we greet one another. A SMILE is the universal language that says: "I love you and I want you to be happy." Remember everyone SMILES in the same language. Have a great week!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

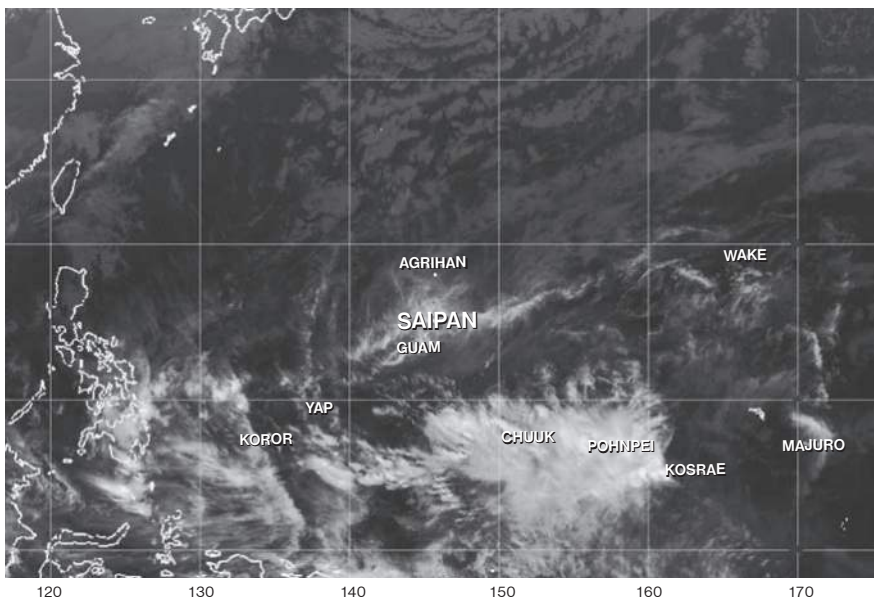
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲72	▼62
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼13
Hong Kong	Showers	▲61	▼54
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲35	▼27
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲80	▼68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼31
Osaka	Showers	▲50	▼41
Paris	Sunny	▲29	▼17
Pusan	Showers	▲48	▼31
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼27
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼33
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲38	▼15
Tokyo	Showers	▲51	▼36
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N165E to east of Minami Tori Shima at 24N160E then continues as a shear line to north of Agrihan at 19N145E to beyond 130E at 12N. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. An old shear line stretches southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 24N170E to just north of Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 130E at 8N east of 140E. Widely scattered showers are seen along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line west of 140E. Scattered showers are present along and up to 250 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from 3N130E to EQ155E. Converging trade winds near the trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across a large area between 1N and 8N from 138E to 163E. This area covers Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae but is south of Yap.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
6:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:45 PM	5:00 AM
Tuesday	5:42 PM	5:48 AM
Wednesday	6:38 PM	6:34 AM
Thursday	7:35 PM	7:19 AM
Friday	8:32 PM	8:03 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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GIVE KIDS A SMILE PROGRAM

SDA gives out over $16K worth of free dental services

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and 40 youngsters on Saipan received free dental services amounting to $16,841 from Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic last Feb. 3.

Friday's event marked the island's fourth year of taking part in the Give Kids A Smile Program of the American Dental Association. Thousands of dentists and their dental teams across the nation provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families every first Friday of February.

Some 30 SDA Clinic staffers, including clinic director Kenneth D. Pierson, dentists William J.B. Shearer, Michael D. Stafford, Stacy R. Stroup, Sarah-Jane Harebottle Shearer, and registered dental hygienists Beverly Moretti and Lori Serna, provided the free services.

This is the 10th year of the program which attracted the participation of over 9,000 dentists and close to 30,000 volunteers, all of whom helped over 405,000 children to receive dental health care services.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Kenneth D. Pierson, clinic director for Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, is assisted by staffer Cyji Cepeda while he checks on his patient, 5-year-old Areeza Anda, during the Give Kids A Smile program last Feb. 3.

"The objective is to bring awareness to the needs of children's dental health," said Serna in an interview at the clinic on Friday.

While children are considered a "very underserved population" and "a population in need" in terms of oral health care, Serna pointed out that many of them don't receive oral health care since many families deem dental insurance as "a bonus or a luxury."

"A lot of children end up without dental insurance and they, unfortunately, are the ones at most risk," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

At the same time, Serna emphasized how many parents are misinformed in caring for their children's teeth, thinking that "it's just baby teeth, it will fall out."

"They don't realize that the last baby teeth will fall out when the children are 13. So what, you're not going to take care of their teeth for 13 years? But people don't understand this," she said.

Serna underscored that just because a child is old enough to hold on to a toothbrush does not necessarily mean that they can take care of their teeth on their own. Usually, she said, children cannot really do a good job brushing their teeth until they're about 9 years old.

"Between the poor nutrition children get and the poor oral health care that they cannot take care of their teeth, it becomes a recipe for disaster," said Serna. "By the time we see them when they're 2 or 3 years old, every single tooth in their mouth has a cavity."

This is why SDA takes part in the annual program to bring awareness to the importance of oral hygiene and to call on other dental care providers to do their own share in addressing the problem, explained Serna, adding that SDA is the only clinic that participates in the nationwide program.

Serna noted how the number of community members availing of the Give Kids A Smile and their other outreach programs like Clinic With A Heart has decreased since last year, owing to Medicaid which Serna said "really made a difference."

In celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, Serna said SDA will also be publishing articles in the newspaper on proper dental care, do public service announcements, and conduct presentations in various schools.

Serna stressed the importance of taking care of children's teeth, urging parents to celebrate their children's birthday by bringing them to SDA Clinic as they give free dental exams. "The earlier the good habits are started, the better."

Garapan resident Liza C. Anda said she took time off of work to bring her daughter, 5-year-old Areeza, to get her teeth checked.

"I'm very thankful that SDA is doing this outreach to benefit the children. It's a big help given the high cost of dental health care these days. Hopefully all dental providers would do the same," said Anda.

Malua T. Peter, who brought her grandchildren, Anthony Malighar, 6, and Pio Nogis, 9 to avail of the free dental services, said SDA is "very generous" to be providing free dental services for children. She expressed concern for those parents whose children have yet to see a dentist to look into their teeth.

"It's very critical that they do that… It's very important for their child to have good teeth because it contributes to good health," said Peter.

The young patients, including their parents, also received freebies such as toothbrush, floss, and booklets on how to take care of their children's teeth during their visit to SDA Clinic.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to John Peter Sablan. A simple celebration, a gathering of friends; here is wishing you great happiness, a joy that never ends. God bless! From your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Zeny Hernandez. On your birthday, may every glowing candle on your cake be a wish that comes true. Good health and God bless! From your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

You're daddy's dearest and mommy's princess. You're your uncle's craziest and nina's hardest. You're your cousin's favorite and your grandma's loving-est. For the family, you're the daughter who's the best! Shalei Terrie, We all wish you a very happy third birthday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy belated second birthday to our biha princess Cassidee Jolina. May you have a fun-filled day. We love you! God bless. Love Mommy, Daddy, and the family

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

You are an amazing son Jacoby! You're 16 and we feel so fortunate to have seen you grow into one of the most amazing young man that we have ever known. Today, we celebrate you and what your life has meant to those that love you! Happy 16th birthday! With much love, Mom, Dad, and family!

Marianas Coffee Trail run draws *Travel Life* mag

Bi-monthly Japanese magazine *Travel Life* travelled to Saipan to cover the 5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run last Jan. 28, an event that attracted 58 competitors led by top finisher Charles Epperson, who finished the long course at 1:35:26, 20 minutes ahead of his closest contender.

The annual signature event of the Northern Marianas drew competitors from the region. This year's run featured a 10K and a 20K course from the Philippine Sea at American Memorial Park to the peak of Mt. Tapochao, the highest point on island at about 1,500 feet above sea level, and back.

Travel Life mag sent a photographer and writer to cover the event for a two-page May 2012 story that will also feature other island attractions. The full-color magazine introduces world-wide travel destinations with extensive photos. *Travel Life* targets JTB Gold Card members in Japan and circulates to 80,000 readers. The estimated exposure value of the article is over $21,000.

"While the Marianas Coffee Trail Run continues to offer a strong and challenging course

for local competitors, we continue to work to further develop the event and attract more

international competitors," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Through close collaboration with our Japan partners and publicity through media such as *Travel Life* magazine, we hope to increase awareness of the event."

Travel Life also interviewed major sponsors, including president Chuck Jordan of Marianas Coffee and director Kiyokazu Onishi of KFC Triathlon Club of Japan. The magazine also attended the awards ceremony after the run.

Rounding out the winners for this year's run in the male division of the long course were

Antonio Florence (1:55:29) and John Douglas (2:05:29) in second and third, respectively. First in the female division of the long course were Mamiko Berger (1:46:38), Meiko Carey (1:56:07), and Tara Allen (2:13:11).

On the 10K short course, top male finishers were all NMI hometown favorites: Ronald Villafria (50:03:00), Jack Kabiriel (56:45:00), and Thomas Linden (58:48:00). Top female finishers were Imaya Akane (1:13:42), Wantha Aldrich (1:21:17), and Xiangshan Cui (1:23:32).

The Marianas Coffee Trail Run is one of several annual sporting events held by the MVA

to attract visitors and international media attention to the NMI. While in Saipan, *Travel Life* also took a tour of Managaha, the Garapan Street Market, and historic sites including Sugar King Park. The magazine also covered dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa and E'sy Kitchen, underwater World War II aircraft wrecks, a Marianas Trekking hike to Forbidden Island, a Las Vegas-style SandCastle dinner show, and shopping at Joeten Shopping Center. ***(MVA)***

Red Cross to conduct Health & Safety training

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the following Health & Safety training at its training room located on Airport Road.

- First Aid: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6pm-9pm
- Adult CPR/AED: Thursday, Feb. 9, 6pm-9pm
- Pediatric CPR/AED: Sat., Feb. 25, 8am-11:30am

Pre-registration is required at least 24 hours prior to training date. A $70 course fee is required to participate in the above mentioned training.

Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Business

For Facebook 'Hacker Way' is way of life

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's billionaire CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls himself a hacker.

For most people, that word means something malicious—shady criminals who listen in on private voicemails, or anonymous villains who cripple websites and break into email accounts.

For Facebook, though, hacker means something different. It's an ideal that permeates the company's culture. It explains the push to try new ideas (even if they fail), and to promote new products quickly (even if they're imperfect). The hacker approach has made Facebook one of the world's most valuable Internet companies.

Hackers "believe that something can always be better, and that nothing is ever complete," Zuckerberg explains. "They just have to go fix it - often in the face of people who say it's impossible or are content with the status quo."

Zuckerberg penned those words in a 479-word essay called "The Hacker Way", which he included in the document the company filed with government regulators about its plans for an initial public offering. The company is seeking $5 billion from investors in a deal that could value Facebook at as much as $100 billion.

The 27-year-old, who has a $28.4 billion stake in the stock deal, uses the H-word 12 times in the essay; "shareholder" appears just once. Should Zuckerberg have left those references out of his IPO manifesto, knowing full-well it could scare off potential investors? He could easily have described Facebook as "nimble" or "agile" instead.

"Symbolically, it doesn't bode well to Facebook and to potential investors," says Robert D'Ovidio, an associate professor of criminal justice at Drexel University in Philadelphia who studies computer crime. "I think it shows maybe an immaturity on his part. He should definitely know better."

By using the word, Zuckerberg is also trying to reclaim it. To him, Steve Jobs and the founders of many of the world's biggest technology companies were hackers.

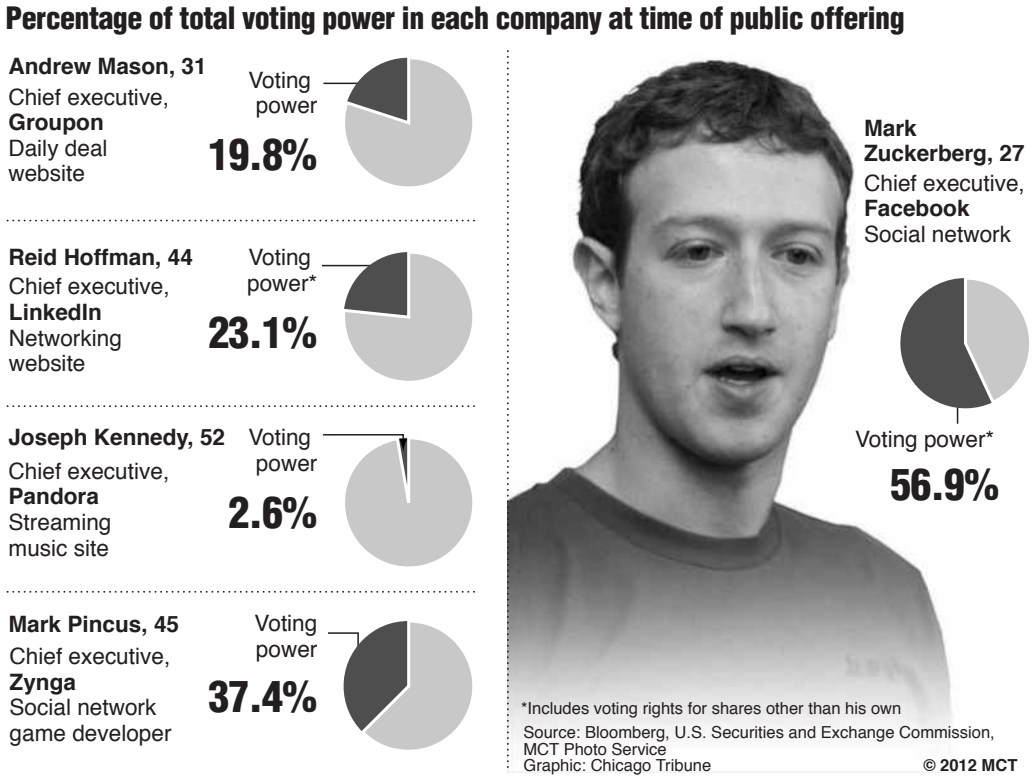
"The word 'hacker' has an unfairly negative connotation from being portrayed in the media as people who break into computers," Zuckerberg writes. "In reality, hacking just means building something quickly or testing the boundaries of what can be done."

To be fair, the meaning has become complicated. Bad hackers destroy things with evil intentions. They break into the voicemails of crime victims and celebrities in search of a hot news story. They breach security systems to steal credit card data. Just this week, members of the loose-knit group Anonymous hacked into law enforcement websites around the world and gained access to information about government informants and other sensitive information.

Making their vote count

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg owns 28.2 percent of the company but controls 56.9 percent of the voting stock, according to initial public offering documents. This level of control is greater than what chief executives enjoy at a number of other tech companies that recently have gone public.

Percentage of total voting power in each company at time of public offering



Greek debt talks slowed on labor deal

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A senior Greek official said late Saturday that debt talks needed to avoid bankruptcy in March have reached "a satisfactory level of agreement" but are being held up by a disagreement over drastic labor reforms.

The official, with close knowledge of the negotiations between the government and rescue creditors, said that other issues had been resolved following a "superhuman negotiation."

He asked not to be named because the talks are ongoing.

Debt inspectors representing eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund are pushing for tougher austerity measures and private sector pay cuts before approving a new €130 billion ($171 billion) bailout deal.

Unions and employers' associations in Greece strongly oppose cuts in private wages, warning it would deepen a recession, already in its fourth year, with unemployment topping 19 percent.

"The (debt inspectors) want to make Greece more competitive and they have a certain view on how that should be done. We do not have the same view," the official said.

European officials, meanwhile, piled pressure on Greece to accept more austerity.

Eurogroup chairman Jean-Claude Juncker told the German news magazine Der Spiegel, that the danger of bankruptcy in March should give the Greeks "muscles where they now still have some symptoms of paralysis."

Without the necessary reforms, he said, Greece should not expect continued "solidarity efforts from the others."

Prime Minister Lucas Papademos held a six hour meeting with EU-IMF debt inspectors Saturday, a day before he is due to meet leaders of political parties supporting his coalition government—which all also oppose wage cuts in the private sector.

His finance minister, Evangelos Venizelos, joined the talks after a day of crisis meetings with Cabinet colleagues and a two-hour conference call with eurozone finance ministers, joined by IMF chief Christine Lagarde and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi.

Without additional international support, Greece would go bankrupt, since it is unable to cover a €14.5 billion ($19.1 billion) bond repayment on March 20.

Tied to the new bailout deal is a proposed agreement with banks and private investors who hold some €200 billion ($263.2 billion) of Greece's debt that would slash the country's borrowing costs and save it from a default. The investors would forgive €100 billion ($131.6 billion) of the debt in exchange for a cash payout and new bonds with more favorable repayment terms.

Top bank negotiators arrived in Athens on Saturday night for more talks, and are to be joined by Josef Ackermann, the CEO of Germany's Deutsche Bank.

Venizelos said negotiations for both landmark rescue deals had to be completed by late Sunday.

"There is a very small margin separating a successful end in (negotiations) from an impasse that could be due to a misunderstanding," he said.

"We stand at the razor's edge."

Law enforcement websites under attack by hackers

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Saboteurs stole passwords and sensitive information on tipsters while hacking into the websites of several law enforcement agencies worldwide in attacks attributed to the collective known as Anonymous.

Breaches were reported this week in Boston, Syracuse, New York, Salt Lake City and Greece.

Hackers gained access to the Salt Lake City Police Department website that gathers citizen complaints about drug and other crimes, including phone numbers, addresses and other personal data of informants, police said.

The website remained down Friday as police worked to make it more secure.

Anonymous is a collection of Internet enthusiasts, pranksters and activists whose targets have included financial institutions such as Visa and MasterCard, the Church of Scientology and law enforcement agencies.

Following a spate of arrests across the world, the group and its various offshoots have focused their attention on law enforcement agencies in general and the FBI in particular.

The group also claimed responsibility for hacking the website of a Virginia law firm that represented a U.S. Marine involved in the deaths of civilians in Iraq in 2005.

Anonymous also published a recording on the Internet Friday of a phone call between the FBI and Scotland Yard, gloating in a Twitter message that "the FBI might be curious how we're able to continuously read their internal comms for some time now."

FBI spokeswoman Jenny Shearer said in an email to The Associated Press the agency was aware of the incidents, and an investigation was ongoing.

In Greece, the Justice Ministry took down its site Friday after a video by activists claiming to be Greek and Cypriot members of Anonymous was displayed for at least two hours.

In Boston, a message posted on the police website before it was taken down Friday said, "Anonymous hacks Boston Police website in retaliation for police brutality at OWS," an apparent reference to the Occupy Wall Street movement. The message also promised "there is plenty more mayhem to deliver."

A police spokesman would not confirm Anonymous was responsible.

Another message on the department's website said a hack several months ago unearthed hundreds of passwords that were released in retaliation for what was called brutality against Occupy Boston.

In October, Boston police acknowledged that various websites used by members of the police department — including the website belonging to the police patrolmen's association — had been hacked and possibly compromised. The department said it asked all police personnel to change their passwords on its network.

The Occupy movement in Boston set up camp in the city's financial district for two months this fall. The first hack came about 10 days after Boston police arrested 141 Occupy demonstrators on Oct. 11.

Police dismantled the camp Dec. 10, citing public health and safety concerns.

"So you get your kicks beating protesters? That's OK; we get kicks defacing ... your websites — again," the message on the department's website said Friday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dealer group sees higher US auto sales and prices

LAS VEGAS (AP)—U.S. car buyers will likely pay more for new and used cars this year as the economy improves. That's according to the National Automobile Dealers Association, which predicts the average price of a new car will rise 6 percent to $30,000. Used prices will jump as much as 8 percent for pickups and SUVs. The average price of a used small car, like the Honda Civic, will increase 1 percent to $9,475. More people are expected to splurge on new luxury cars as the economy improves. By contrast, used cars are in tight supply because so few people bought cars during the recession.

Greek public snatches free potatoes

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP)—Farmers protesting the low prices they get for their potatoes handed over 12 tons to an eager public in this northern Greek town. Farmers from the province of Central Macedonia were doling out 6-kilogram (13-pound) potato bags to members of the public in the center of the town, outside a farming exhibition. They said they were protesting middlemen who force them to sell their produce at very low prices. "It costs us 20 cents per kilo to produce and (the wholesalers) offer us 10 to 11 cents, said Nikos Stephanidis," an official with the farmers' association. "It's better to hand them out to the people than to the merchants. People are getting hungry these days," he said, referring to the deepening financial crisis.

Indian minister escapes trial in telecoms scandal

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian court has ruled that a powerful minister will not have to stand trial in a multibillion-dollar telecommunications scandal, giving the beleaguered government a reprieve. Judge O.P. Saini on Saturday dismissed opposition politician Subramanian Swamy's request that Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram face prosecution in the scandal. The scandal stems from the 2008 sale of cellular operating licenses, which resulted in losses of nearly $36 billion in potential government revenue.

Nation

Romney rolls to easy win in Nevada caucuses

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney cruised to victory in the Nevada caucuses Saturday night, notching a second straight triumph over a field of rivals suddenly struggling to keep pace.

The caucuses drew little attention in the nominating campaign, but Nevada figures to be a fierce battleground in November between the winner of the Republican nomination and Democrat President Barack Obama. The state's unemployment rate was measured at 12.6 percent in December, the worst in the U.S.

Romney unleashed a sharp attack on Obama, whose economic policies he said have "made these tough times last longer."

"President Obama seems to believe America's role as leader in the world is a thing of the past. I believe the 21st century will be and must be an American century," Romney said to cheers from his backers.

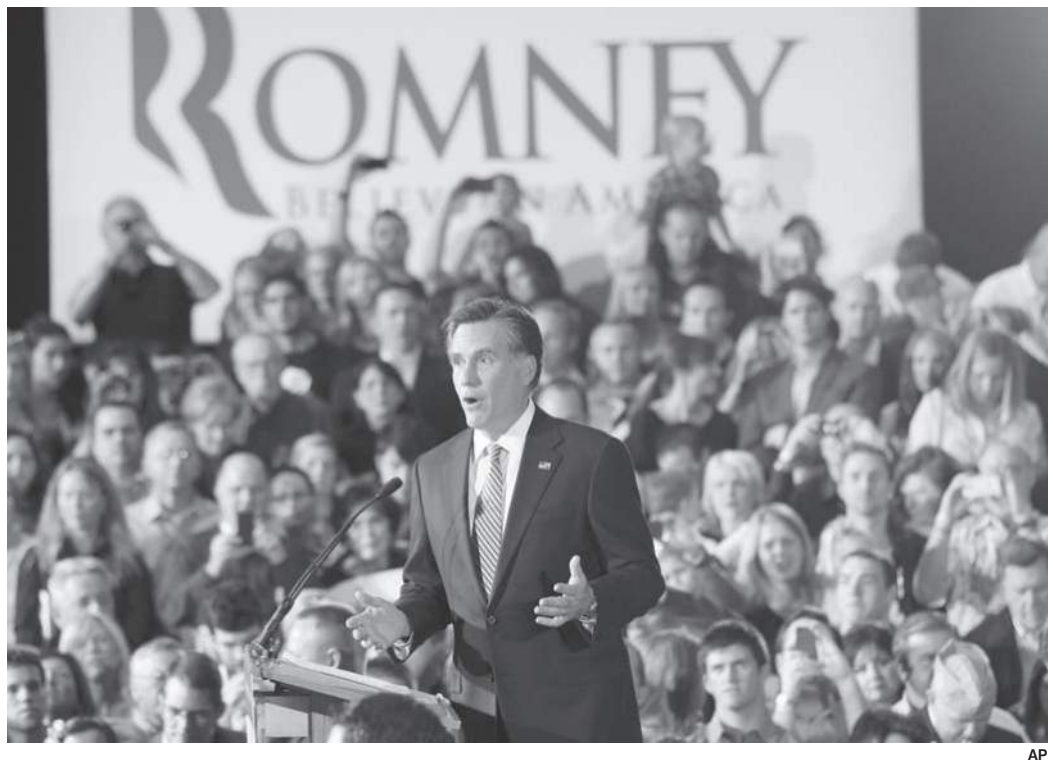
Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, held a double-digit lead over his nearest pursuer as the totals mounted in a state where fellow Mormons accounted for roughly a quarter of all caucus-goers.

Former House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas Rep. Ron Paul vied for a distant second. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum trailed the field. Returns from 14 of 17 counties showed Romney with 42 percent support, Gingrich with 25 percent, Paul with 20 percent and Santorum with 13 percent.

Yet to report its results was Clark County, which includes Las Vegas and often accounts for half or more of the votes in a statewide election.

Romney's victory capped a week that began with his double-digit win in the Florida primary. That contest was as intense as Nevada's caucuses were sedate — so quiet that they produced little television advertising, no candidate debates and only a modest investment of time by the contenders.

According to the AP count, Romney began the day with 87 of the 1,144 delegates needed to win the Republican nomination. Gingrich had 26, Santorum 14 and Paul 4.



AP

Republican presidential candidate former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks at his Nevada caucus night victory celebration in Las Vegas, Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012.

Preliminary results of a poll of Nevada Republicans entering their caucuses showed that nearly half said the most important consideration in their decision was a candidate's ability to defeat Obama this fall, a finding in line with other states.

About one-quarter of those surveyed said they are Mormon, roughly the same as in 2008, when Romney won with more than a majority of the vote in a multi-candidate field.

The entrance poll was conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press at 25 randomly selected caucus sites. It included 1,553 interviews and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

A total of 28 delegates were at stake in the state-by-state race to lock up the 1,144 needed to secure the Republican nomination.

Nevada awarded its delegates in proportion to the caucus vote totals, meaning that any candidate who captured at least 3.57 percent of the total number of ballots cast would be rewarded. By contrast, Romney's victory in the Florida primary on Tuesday netted him all 50 of the delegates at stake there.

From Nevada, the calendar turns to caucuses in Minnesota and Colorado and a non-binding primary in Missouri on Tuesday.

Maine caucuses end next Saturday, and the next seriously contested states are expected to be primaries in Michigan and Arizona on Feb. 28.

Nevada caucuses, coming four days after the Florida primary, meant little time for the type of intense campaign that characterized the first month of the race.

The most memorable event of the four-day Nevada campaign was an endorsement that flamboyant billionaire Donald Trump bestowed on Romney in Las Vegas in a circus-like atmosphere that followed reports he would back Gingrich.

By the time Nevada Republicans caucused, Paul was campaigning in Minnesota, Santorum in Colorado.

His Florida victory in hand, Romney was acting like a front-runner again, campaigning against Obama more than Gingrich. Restore Our Future took on the former speaker, airing ads that said he consistently overstated his connections to Ronald Reagan.

Gingrich says he's staying in GOP race

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Defeated in the Nevada caucuses, Newt Gingrich brushed aside all talk of quitting the Republican presidential race and said he hopes a series of victories will enable him to catch up with front-runner Mitt Romney by the Texas primary in early April.

At a news conference in Las Vegas after results showed him and Ron Paul jockeying for second place, the former House speaker attacked Romney and President Barack Obama by turns. He said he and aides have spent much of the past four days retooling a campaign that twice has made him a leader in the polls, yet left him with only one victory in five states.

He described Romney as a Massachusetts moderate, and cast himself as a conservative, and said the differences between the two will become "wider and wider and clearer and clearer" over the next few weeks.

He needs to forge a breakthrough as the race turns to a string of states friendly to Romney, including Colorado and Minnesota on Tuesday and Michigan, where Romney grew up, on Feb. 28.

Nevada was the second straight loss for Gingrich after his triumphant South Carolina upset.

And it was beset by glitches. Gingrich bungled a meeting with Nevada's governor then suffered through the indignity of having advisers tell reporters that the former House speaker would score the endorsement of Donald Trump, only to watch the unpredictable real estate tycoon back Mitt Romney.

Gingrich's campaign has always been a bit of a free-wheeling affair, especially lined up against the regimented Romney effort. Gingrich is perpetually late, he frequently strays off message and his schedule sometimes seems improvised. His public appearances in Nevada have been surprisingly few, and he didn't even venture out to caucus sites on Saturday as voters cast ballots.

But in Nevada, organizational problems were laid bare in a fashion that raises questions about whether he's can compete in upcoming contests.

Gingrich aides say they have been using Nevada—where Romney was heavily favored and Ron Paul has sizable support—to reset the campaign after being clobbered in Florida.

3 Ore. mushroom pickers rescued after 6 days lost

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A family of three huddled on the edge of an old-growth Oregon forest for six days, lost and cold, unable to signal search helicopters flying low and slow overhead.

Without food, water or even warm clothing, Belinda and Daniel Conne, along with their 25-year-old son, Michael, survived by drinking water from streams and taking shelter in a hollowed-out tree.

On Saturday, they managed to crawl to a clearing, where a search helicopter spotted them several miles outside the community of Gold Beach, roughly 330 miles south-southwest of Portland.

"It's a miracle, really," Curry County Sheriff John Bishop said.

The three were airlifted to a Gold Beach hospital, where Bishop spoke with them at an emergency room. He said the Connes told him they could see search helicopters just a few hundred feet above them while they were lost but had nothing to signal them with through the thick, coastal forest vegetation.

Bishop said Daniel Conne suffered a back injury, Belinda Conne had hypothermia, and their son had a sprained foot and minor frostbite. All three also were dehydrated and hungry.

"They just got turned around," Bishop said. "They sought some shelter in a hollowed-out tree and basically they stayed in the same place. But it was heavy vegetation where they were."

Bishop said the three were "remarkably in pretty good shape," given the amount of time they spent outside. He said they likely could have survived for two or three more days in the area, where fresh water is plentiful but food is scarce. The weather was mostly clear, with temperatures in the 40s and 50s.

Bishop said the family was spotted by Jackson County Commissioner John Raschor, who was searching for them in his own helicopter with Curry County Sheriff's Lt. John Ward.

Raschor is the same pilot who found a San Francisco family lost in a snowstorm in 2006 just 35 miles from where he found the Connes. In 2006, Raschor flew Kati Kim and her two young daughters to safety after spotting them near their car. James Kim died of hypothermia trying to hike out for help.

After being spotted by Raschor and Ward, the Connes were transported by a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter to Curry General Hospital in Gold Beach. A nursing supervisor said Saturday afternoon the three were in a doctor's care and were unavailable for comment.

At the emergency room, Bishop said the Connes were "very thankful for the rescue" and were able to eat solid food.

ACROSS THE NATION

Prosecutors: Ind. woman left decomposing in chair

LAWRENCEBURG, Ind. (AP)—A southeastern Indiana woman has been charged after prosecutors say she left her morbidly obese sister alive and decomposing in a chair for three weeks. A grand jury in Dearborn County near the Ohio state line indicted 58-year-old Vickie Holdcraft Friday on charges of reckless homicide, neglect and perjury. A warrant was issued for her arrest and police were still seeking her Saturday. Prosecutors say 61-year-old Priscilla Frieberger died in October after spending the last three weeks of her life decomposing in a brown cloth recliner in the Lawrenceburg home she shared with Holdcraft. Prosecutor Aaron Negangard says Frieberger's skin was stuck to the chair and her body had started decomposing before her sister called 911 on Oct. 2.

Navy: 8 Calif.-based sailors discharged for hazing

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eight sailors have been discharged from the Navy after a hazing incident aboard a San Diego-based amphibious assault ship that was captured on video and included the choking of a fellow sailor, a Navy spokesman said Saturday. The eight received general discharges following allegations they assaulted and choked the sailor aboard the ship, the Bonhomme Richard, as part of a rite to initiate the sailor into a new department, said Lt. Commander David McKinney. McKinney said the assault, which took place Jan. 17 in the ship's berthing area, was videotaped, and the victim treated for injuries. "He was choked out, evidently blacked out and had bruising," said McKinney.

Police clear tents from Occupy site in DC; 7 held

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dozens of U.S. Park Police officers in riot gear and on horseback converged before dawn Saturday on one of the nation's last remaining Occupy sites, with police clearing away tents they said were banned under park rules. At least seven people were arrested. Officials said it was relatively peaceful but got tense late in the day when an officer was struck in the face with a brick as police pushed protesters out of the last section of the park. The officer was taken to a hospital for treatment. Protesters held a general assembly Saturday evening and vowed to continue the movement. One of the speakers acknowledged the injured officer and urged everyone to practice nonviolence.

Asia

Filipino troops still searching for terrorist

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A day after proclaiming the death of a top regional terrorist suspect in a U.S.-backed airstrike, the Philippine military acknowledged Friday that his remains still have not been found.

Troops were searching the jungle camp that was hit Thursday for the body of Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan, said regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang.

Military officials said at least 15 people were killed in the dawn strike on a militant camp on remote southern Jolo Island, including two other high-level leaders. A national military spokesman, Col. Marcelo Burgos, initially reported that Marwan was among them.

AP

Philippine National Police Special Action Forces examine the site where three most wanted leaders of the al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah were among those allegedly killed in a U.S.-backed dawn airstrike in one of the most significant successes against terrorism in Southeast Asia in recent years, in Jolo, Philippines, Thursday, Feb. 12, 2012.

Source: ESRI, Reuters © 20121 MCT

Marwan's death would mark a major success in disrupting the Jemaah Islamiyah terror network blamed for some of the most spectacular bombing attacks in Southeast Asia in recent years. But if the initial report proves incorrect, it would turn a largely successful strike into a partial embarrassment for the Philippine military, while burnishing the reputation of the elusive terrorist.

The U.S. has offered a $5 million reward for the capture of Marwan, a U.S.-trained engineer accused of involvement in deadly bombings in the Philippines and in training militants.

Cabangbang said the announcement of Marwan's killing was based on information provided by informants. He refused to elaborate, saying it would compromise intelligence assets.

"We are still searching. Our troops are still there," Cabangbang said.

He suggested that the blast could have obliterated Marwan's body, saying the process of verification linked to the possible disbursement of the reward money to informants will be "more tedious" and could include DNA testing.

Two Philippine security officials with knowledge of the airstrike who spoke to The Associated Press also said Marwan's body was not found, though bombs shattered the house where he was believed to have been.

One of the officials confirmed the deaths of the other two high-level leaders: Umbra Jumdail, who led the Philippine-based Abu Sayyaf militant group, and a Singaporean leader in Jemaah Islamiyah, Abdullah Ali, who used the guerrilla name Muawiyah. The other official confirmed only the death of Jumdail, also known as Dr. Abu Pula, and his son.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Cabangbang said the decision to announce the killings, including that of Marwan, was made by the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gen. Jessie Dellosa, after he was briefed by commanders.

"There are details that we cannot divulge because of operational security," he said when pressed for details.

A U.S. official in Washington confirmed the strike on Jolo Island, an impoverished region 600 miles (950 kilometers) south of Manila, and said the Pentagon provided assistance in one of the region's most successful anti-terror operations in years. The strike debilitated a regional militant network that has relied on the restive southern Philippines—sometimes called Southeast Asia's Afghanistan—as a headquarters for planning bombings and a base for training and recruitment.

About 30 militants were at the camp near Parang town on Jolo, the stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf and their allies from the mostly Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah, when it was bombarded by two OV10 aircraft with 500-pound (227-kilogram) bombs at 3 a.m., regional military commander Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes said.

More leaks found at crippled Japan nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—Leaks of radioactive water have become more frequent at Japan's crippled nuclear power plant less than two months after it was declared basically stable.

The problem underlines the continuing challenges facing Tokyo Electric Power Co. as it attempts to keep the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant under control. A massive earthquake and tsunami badly damaged the plant last March, resulting in the melting of three reactor cores.

Workers spotted a leak Friday at a water reprocessing unit which released enough beta rays to cause radiation sickness, TEPCO spokesman Junichi Matsumoto said. He said no one was injured and the leak stopped after bolts were tightened on a tank.

Matsumoto said TEPCO also found that 8.5 tons of radioactive water had leaked earlier in the week after a pipe became detached at Unit 4, one of the plant's six reactors. The company earlier had estimated that only a few gallons (liters) had leaked.

He said officials are investigating the cause of that leak, but that it was unlikely the pipe had been loosened by the many aftershocks that have hit the plant.

The structural integrity of the damaged Unit 4 reactor building has long been a major concern among experts because a collapse of its spent fuel cooling pool could cause a disaster worse than the three reactor meltdowns.

Cold winter weather has also caused water inside pipes to freeze elsewhere at the plant, resulting in leaks in at least 30 locations since late January, Matsumoto said.

Officials have not detected any signs of radioactive water from the leaks reaching the surrounding ocean. Sandbag walls have been built around problem areas as a precaution.

More than 100,000 people around the plant fled their homes after the disaster due to radiation fears.

The government announced in December that the plant had reached "a cold shutdown condition" and is now essentially stable.

On Monday, six inspectors from the government's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency will begin an inspection of the plant to ensure its continued stability. They will study the reactors' cooling functions and measures to prevent explosions and nuclear chain reactions, among other steps to keep the plant under control, officials said.

State election has big implications for India

SITAPUR, India (AP)—One of India's most powerful and controversial politicians rises from a throne-like armchair, a clutch of candidates standing deferentially behind her and two large portraits flanking the stage. A gated semicircle keeps tens of thousands of supporters 20 yards (meters) away.

For the past five years, Mayawati has ruled like a queen over the gargantuan state of Uttar Pradesh. Now, the bottom-caste dalit leader is working to convince voters to choose another term of her brand of communal politics in an election with broad implications for the nation as a whole.

A re-election victory for the chief minister in the seven-stage election starting Wednesday could turn her caste-based Bahujan Samaj Party from a regional oddity—even if the state it controls is the most populous in the world—into a national force.

A strong showing by the Congress Party—a solid third place is realistic—could invigorate its national government, which has been hammered by corruption scandals and paralyzed by rebellious coalition partners. As a kingmaker in the state coalition, it could press the election winner to join the national government. It would also restore the shine to Rahul Gandhi, the party's prime minister-in-waiting, who has campaigned across the state for months.

A poor Congress showing could cripple India's government for the last two years of its term.

While the competing parties here pay lip service to development and corruption in the state of 200 million people, the real battle is taking place in the down and dirty world of caste and identity politics, as they alternatively try to woo and scare the state's divided communities.

"I have tried my best to bring benefits to the dalit community," Mayawati, who uses only one name, told the rally in the town of Sitapur, about 60 miles (90 kilometers) north of Lucknow. "If we don't win, all those benefits will disappear."

Her low caste supporters cheer her as a defense against the prejudice that keeps them at the bottom of the ladder.

"We take pride because a dalit woman has become chief minister and now other people bow before her. This is a matter of prestige for us," said Ram Pyari, a 50-year-old dalit woman who was once thrown out of a Hindu temple as she sought prayers for her sick daughter because of her caste.

As Mayawati sat smiling on the stage, a praise singer chanted a lengthy paean to her achievements: the love brought to the dalits, the respect given to Muslims, the raft of pensions dispersed to the disadvantaged.

Mayawati's larger than life presence has made her a folk hero to supporters and a national joke to her detractors. She appeared at a gathering wearing a garland of 1,000 rupee ($20) notes estimated to total hundreds of thousands of dollars given by impoverished admirers and spent 28 billion rupees ($560 million) on parks honoring dalit heroes that include 15-foot statues of herself. Meanwhile, her state's health and education systems lie in tatters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report says 3 set themselves on fire in China

BEIJING (AP)—Three more people have set themselves on fire to protest China's policies toward Tibetans in a politically sensitive area that has already been the scene of ethnic violence this year, a report said Sunday. The report from the U.S.-funded Radio Free Asia said the three set themselves on fire Friday in Seda country in Sichuan province. It says one person died and the others are in serious condition. A woman who answered the phone at the county government office Sunday said "no such thing happened." Like many Chinese officials she refused to give her name.

UN: Civilian deaths in Afghan war hit record high

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed as insurgents ratcheted up violence with suicide attacks and roadside bombs, the United Nations said Saturday. Taliban-affiliated militants were responsible for more than three-quarters of the civilian deaths in 2011, the fifth year in a row in which the death toll went up, the U.N. said. The figures were a grim testament to the violence the Taliban and allied Islamist militants can still unleash in Afghanistan, even as NATO begins to map out plans for international troops to draw down and give Afghan security forces the main responsibility for fighting insurgents by the end of 2014.

Indonesian pilot arrested for alleged drug use

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian police say they have arrested an airline pilot on suspicion of using illegal drugs three hours before flying. Narcotics agency director Brig. Gen. Benny Mamoto says Lion Air pilot Syaiful Salam was arrested early Saturday in his hotel room in Surabaya city with a small amount of crystal methamphetamine in his possession. He says a urine test showed Salam had also consumed the drug. The pilot was scheduled to fly three hours later. Salam is the fifth Lion Air pilot to be arrested for alleged drug use in two months.

World

Death toll in latest Egypt clashes climbs to 12

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian security forces on Saturday fired tear gas from armored trucks at protesters demanding an end to military rule, as anger over a deadly soccer riot fueled a third day of clashes that have killed at least 12 people.

The violence followed a melee and stampede after a soccer match Wednesday in the Mediterranean city of Port Said in which 74 people died in the world's worst soccer violence in 15 years. Protesters accuse the security forces of failing to prevent the bloodshed.

After two days of running street battles, clashes broke out again in downtown Cairo Saturday as demonstrators marched on the Interior Ministry. Security forces fired volleys of tear gas at rock-throwing protesters calling for the army to relinquish power. The ministry has been a frequent target for the protesters because it is responsible for the widely distrusted police.

In a bid to end the violence, a group of lawmakers and public figures said they met with Interior Ministry officials to try to negotiate a cease-fire. But security forces disregarded a plan to hold their fire, and lobbed tear gas and fired birdshot on a group of mediators attempting to convince protesters to clear a street leading to the ministry.

"The continued clashes are a way for the ministry to distract attention from the real demands for the military leaders to step down," said Bassem Kamel, a lawmaker who tried to negotiate the truce.

"We know the protesters aren't angels and come with a lot of anger from what happened in Port Said, but it has made people want to stand up to the military rulers," he added.

Some of the protesters themselves urged for an end to the violence and called on people to leave the Interior Ministry area.

"If you love Egypt, return to the (Tahrir) square," chanted protesters along the side streets of the ministry on Saturday.

Police cordoned off several streets with lines of riot police and barbed wire, pushing protesters further back from the ministry.

Rights groups and several newly elected members of parliament have called on the country's military leader, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, who served as President Hosni Mubarak's defense minister for 20 years and took power after Mubarak's ouster last February, to immediately transfer of power to a civilian administration.

Egyptian presidential hopeful and ex-Arab League chief Amr Moussa echoed those calls Saturday, saying the situation in the country was "very frightening" and that the military needed to open up presidential campaigning in March and step down in favor of civilian authorities by April 30.

Russia, China veto UN resolution on Syria

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council failed again Saturday to take decisive action to stop the escalating violence in Syria as Russia and China blocked a resolution backing an Arab League plan that calls for President Bashar Assad to step down. The double-veto outraged the U.S. and European council members who feared it would embolden the Assad regime.

In an unusual weekend session, 13 members of the council, including the United States, Britain and France, voted in favor of the resolution aimed at stopping the brutal crackdown in Syria that has killed thousands of people since anti-government protests erupted a year ago.

It was the second time in four months that Russia and China used their veto power to block a Security Council resolution condemning the violence in Syria. Damascus has been a key Russian ally since Soviet times and Moscow has opposed any U.N. call that could be interpreted as advocating military intervention or regime change.

The rare double-veto was issued following days of high-level negotiations aimed at overcoming Russian opposition to the draft resolution. In a true display of diplomatic brinksmanship, the U.S., European nations and the Arab League ultimately decided to call Russia's bluff on its threats to block the measure despite its overwhelming support among council members. Moscow went ahead and used its veto, bringing Beijing along in support.

Several European envoys said before the session that they felt compelled to call for the vote despite Russia's attempts to seek a delay because they were concerned about the latest outbreak of violence in Syria.

The urgency was heightened by a weekend assault by Syrian forces firing mortars and artillery on the city of Homs. Activists said more than 200 people were killed in what they called the bloodiest episode of the nearly 11-month-old uprising against Assad. The U.N. said in December that more than 5,400 people have been killed since March, but it has been unable to update its count for weeks due to the chaos. Hundreds more have been killed since that tally was announced.

Tens of thousands rally against Putin's rule

MOSCOW (AP)—Their frozen breath rising in the brutally frigid air, tens of thousands of protesters marched through downtown Moscow on Saturday to keep up the pressure on Prime Minister Vladimir Putin one month before a presidential election that could extend his rule for six more years.

The protesters have few illusions that they can drive Putin from power now, but for the first time in years Russians are challenging his control and demanding that their voices be heard.

Wrapped in furs or dressed for the ski slope, as many as 120,000 people turned out for the third and perhaps largest mass demonstration since Putin's party won a parliamentary election Dec. 4 with the help of what appeared to be widespread fraud.

The election, following Putin's presumptuous decision in September to reclaim the presidency, was the last straw for Russians increasingly unhappy with the creeping authoritarianism during his 12-year rule. Two protest rallies in December, which also drew tens of thousands, were the biggest in Russia since the demonstrations 20 years ago that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The deep freeze that has settled over the Russian capital threatened to keep many away on Saturday, when temperatures dropping to minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 20 degrees Celsius).

Instead, they tied on the white ribbons that have become the symbol of the protest movement and chanting "Russia Without Putin" marched about a mile (about 1 1/2 kilometers) to a square across the river from the Kremlin. Thousands of police monitored the two-hour peaceful protest without intervening.

"There are now so many of us that they cannot arrest us all," said 56-year-old protester Alexander Zelensky. In recent years, riot police have routinely broken up opposition protests and detained the participants.

Chavez and allies back Argentina on Falklands

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and other leaders in the left-leaning ALBA bloc backed Argentina on Saturday in its long-running dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman thanked Chavez and other presidents for their support at the meeting in Caracas.

"The issue of the Malvinas Islands is an issue that concerns us, especially with the strong language that has emerged from the British government, accusing Argentina of being colonialist," Chavez said, calling it "the world in reverse."

The dispute heated up recently when Prince William, a Royal Air Force helicopter pilot, was assigned to the islands on an upcoming military tour along with a warship in the run-up to the 30th anniversary of Argentina's April 1982 invasion, which sparked a 10-week war.

Argentina, which claims Britain stole the archipelago from it 180 years ago, calls them the Malvinas Islands and has protested the British deployment.

The eight member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance bloc, or ALBA, approved an agreement barring any boats flying Falkland Islands flags from docking in their ports.

"I'm speaking only for Venezuela, but if it occurs to the British empire to attack Argentina, Argentina won't be alone this time," Chavez said.

Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa suggested the countries take stronger measures. "We have to talk about sanctions," Correa said.

Argentina hopes diplomatic and economic measures will pressure Britain to comply with United Nations resolutions encouraging both countries to negotiate the islands' sovereignty. British leaders have refused to do that.

Turning to economic matters, Chavez told the group of presidents that their countries should work together to strengthen their economies to withstand global troubles. He called for "a more ambitious project" in economic cooperation.

Health & Fitness

Can your desk help you lose weight?

By AMANDA BANKSTON
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—James Levine has reviewed the statistics: One in three Minnesota adults is either diabetic or pre-diabetic, and one in four is obese.

And he thinks he's found the underlying ailment: "The sitting disease."

"Sitting is sort of the new smoking," the Mayo Clinic endocrinologist said Wednesday on the eve of an experiment designed to tackle so-called "lifestyle" diseases.

He and a team of researchers from Mayo and the University of Minnesota believe that even modest increases in daily activity could help people lose weight and improve their health—and help control the nation's staggering health care bills.

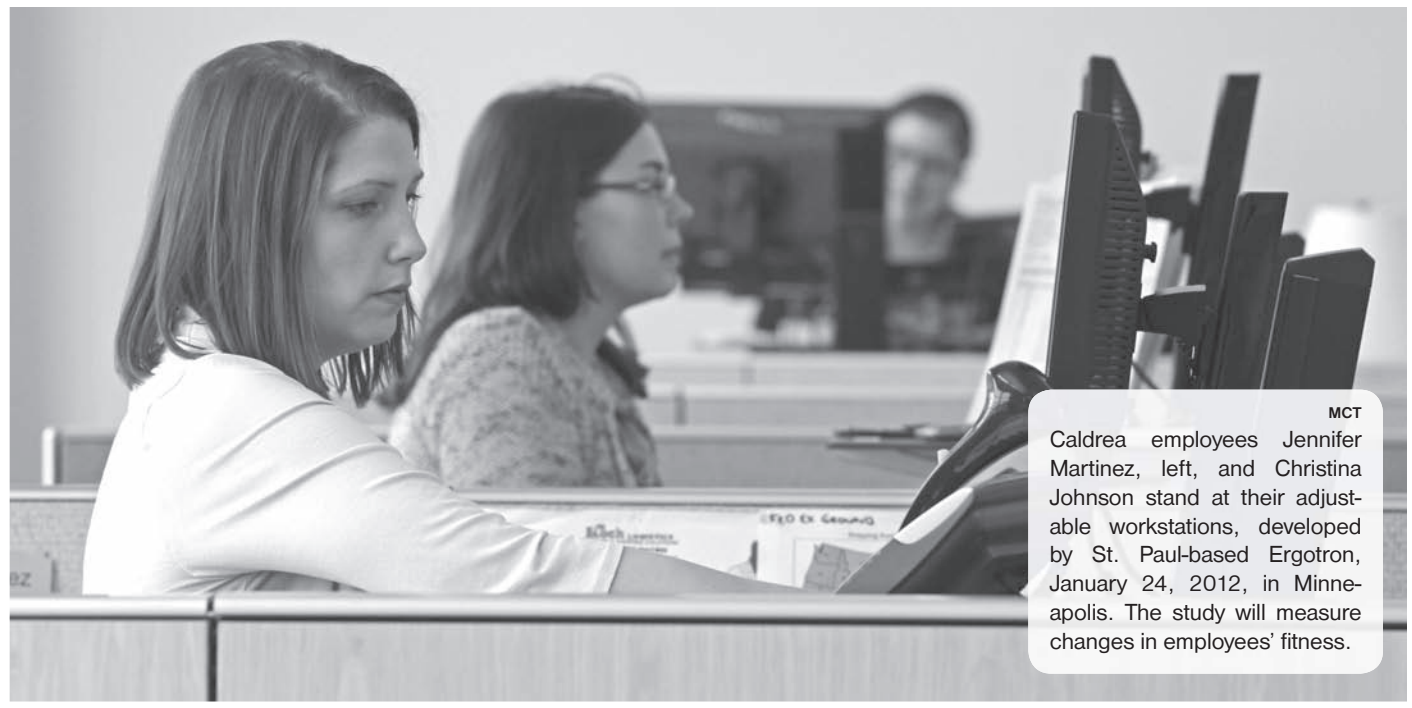
Levine, who walks on a treadmill while he works and believes in "walking staff meetings," said similar studies have suggested that employees can burn up to 350 additional calories per day, reduce their health care costs and perform better at work by replacing 2 1/2 hours of sitting with standing each day.

To test that theory, Levine and his team dropped in this week on the Minneapolis offices of Caldrea, a maker of environment-friendly cleaning supplies. The desks of 30 employees have been replaced with adjustable "work-fit" stations, developed by the St. Paul, Minn.-based company Ergotron, that give the employees the option to sit or stand while working on their computers.

The researchers began health screenings for the study Tuesday in Mayo's "Obesity Prevention Bus," a lab on wheels. The bus will return to Caldrea every 30 days for three months to measure changes in employees' behavior and fitness.

James Greenwood, a senior sales analyst and account manager for Caldrea, said he jumped at the opportunity to participate in the study because for the last 14 years, he's spent about 35 hours per week sitting at a desk. On Tuesday he found out that his body-mass-index (BMI) is 19, well within the range considered healthy, but he would like to get it lower.

He said he's tried everything from sitting on an exercise ball at his desk to biking and walking on his lunch breaks to stay active and alert in the office.



MCT
Caldrea employees Jennifer Martinez, left, and Christina Johnson stand at their adjustable workstations, developed by St. Paul-based Ergotron, January 24, 2012, in Minneapolis. The study will measure changes in employees' fitness.

"I think any time you get a chance to do something to break up your day or do something at work, it's wonderful," he said.

Epidemiologist Mark Pereira, who studies community health at the University of Minnesota, helped design the study, which was introduced by one of his graduate students, Neer Dutta. The study is one of about six around the world studying similar workplace interventions, and is part of a larger research partnership between Mayo and the university to study the way lifestyle changes could improve health and wellness.

After the three-month Caldrea study, the team plans to research ways that small lifestyle changes could help other populations such as children in schools, college freshmen and under-served communities, Pereira said.

Greenwood transferred to Caldrea five months ago and he said he's already seen how working for a company that "invests in his health"—Caldrea offers catered organic lunches and group fitness outings—can improve office life.

"Employees are definitely engaged," he said.

Amanda Bankston is a University of Minnesota journalism student on assignment for the Star Tribune.

Surprises about Planned Parenthood cancer testing

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

To many people, breast cancer screening means a mammogram. But for millions of poor, mostly young women who visit Planned Parenthood, it is usually just a physical exam by the only health professional they may ever see.

Those clinical breast exams are controversial—government advisers don't endorse them. Yet for some, this simple exam has helped spot breast cancer. And Susan G. Komen for the Cure isn't the only group paying Planned Parenthood to do them—the government does, too. Komen actually funds relatively few.

Surprises like these are emerging about both groups in the dustup over Komen's decision to bar Planned Parenthood from future grants because of a probe spurred by anti-abortion groups. The decision was reversed on Friday after a huge backlash, with critics saying Komen was hurting the very women it aims to serve.

They are women such as Tina Love, an independent filmmaker in Santa Barbara, Calif., whose sister-in-law is famed breast surgeon Dr. Susan Love. Four years ago, when she was 41, Tina Love went to a Planned Parenthood clinic in Santa Barbara.

"I had a lump and I didn't have health insurance," she explained. The agency sent her for a free mammogram, which led to her cancer being diagnosed and treated.

It's not known exactly how many cancers Planned Parenthood has found. But just last June, Komen said screenings it paid for caught 177 cancers over the last five years.

Some things you may not know about Planned Parenthood:

Most of its services—71 percent—are for birth control and testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Abortions made up 3 percent of its services in 2010. Cancer screening accounted for about 15 percent.

Most of Planned Parenthood's clients are too young for breast cancer screening under most guidelines, although they are prime age for cervical cancer screening. About 80 percent are under 35.

Planned Parenthood doesn't follow the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines, which do not endorse clinical breast exams and recommend mammograms only every other year starting at age 50. Instead, Planned Parenthood does a physical breast exam on any woman of any age as part of a regular physical, and refers for mammograms any women 40 and older.

Komen paid for just 170,000 of the more than 4 million clinical breast exams Planned Parenthood performed nationwide over the last five years, and just 6,400 of Planned Parenthood's 70,000 mammography referrals in that time.

The government has long paid Planned Parenthood for services related to cancer and sexually transmitted diseases. The group gets federal and state money for breast cancer screening service through a program for poor and uninsured women.

Dr. Vanessa Cullins, a vice president with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, defended its use of clinical breast exams. The exam, in which a doctor feels the breast for lumps, is "a good tool" when followed with mammograms and other tests as needed, she said.

In women who may not see other doctors, "we are encouraging breast self-awareness" so that if a lump is found, they'll seek help, she said.

It worked for Michele Azzaro, 45, of Dallas, who first went to Planned Parenthood when she found a lump back in her 20s. It turned out not to be cancerous, and a mammogram provided through Planned Parenthood ruled out cancer again last year.

Azzaro is unemployed and has no insurance, and has relied on Planned Parenthood for cholesterol tests and pretty much all her medical needs for more than two decades.

"Without having their services, I honestly don't know what I would do," she said. "I'm grateful they've been there for me and millions of other women like me."

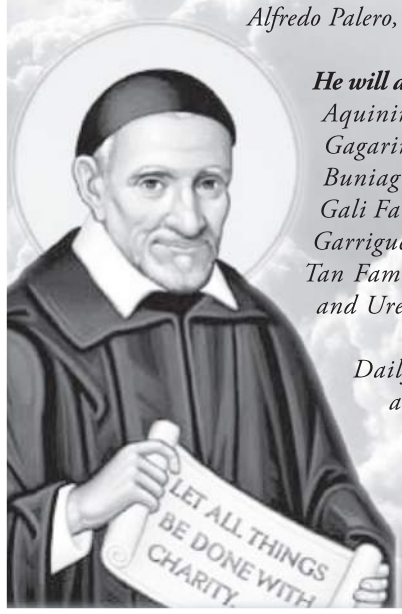
In celebration of his new life

Ernesto Dela Rosa Palero

Lovingly known as "Erning"
May 30, 1952 – February 2, 2012

He will now join his:
Parents: *†Abraham Palero & †Josefa Palero*
Parents-in-law: *†Rodrigo Perje & †Consuelo Perje*
Son: *†Edric O. Palero*
Brother: *†Rufino Palero*

He will live forever in the hearts of his:
Wife: *Rosalinda Perje Palero*
Children: *Larry O. Palero, Ronnie O. Palero, Joana Marie P. Palero & Ira Marie P. Palero*
Daughters-in-law: *Liway P. Palero, Madie A. Palero & Felecisima M. Palero*
Grand Children: *Gwyneth Eazel P. Palero, Patricia May A. Palero, Luke Mark A. Palero & Carlo Miguel A. Palero*
Brothers & Sisters: *Armentario Palero, Emanuel Palero, Nestor Palero, Gregorio Palero, Alfredo Palero, Luzviminda Palero, Lolita Palero & Liza Palero*



He will also be missed by his numerous relatives and friends:
Aquininoc Family, Taitano Family, Peñalosa Family, Gagaring Family, Cataluna Family, Tenorio Family, Buniag Family, Santiago Family, Castro Family, Gali Family, Palero Family, Perje Family, Mendoza Family, Garriguez Family, Coward Family, Maalihan Family, Tan Family, Palacios Family, Borbe Family, Salazar Family and Urena Family.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 pm at San Vicente Church. Nightly rosaries are being said at 7:00pm in our beloved's residence in Chalan Piao across Hopwood.

Please join us in prayers.
The Family

Life & Style

Shocked? Not! Not many surprises in Super Bowl ads

NEW YORK (AP)—There won't be many surprises for viewers who follow the ads during Sunday's Super Bowl broadcast.

About 20 of the roughly 36 Super Bowl advertisers put their TV commercials online before Sunday. That's a major shift: It's up from last year when only a handful of companies released their ads before the game.

Acura put out its spot showing TV talk show host Jay Leno zooming off in a jet pack. Actor John Stamos already can be seen getting bonked in the head in a Dannon ad. And tens of thousands have viewed Victoria's Secret model Adriana Lima in a Teleflora commercial.

Why the flurry of pre-releases? The Super Bowl is advertisers' biggest stage, with 111 million-plus fans expected to tune in. But after paying an average of $3.5 million for 30 seconds, advertisers are eager to stand out in the crowded field of about 70 Super Bowl commercials. Companies figure what better way to do that than to generate buzz online. But does it pay to show all your cards, err, ads?

"It's creating 'pre love' for your spot," says Greg DiNoto, chief creative officer of advertising agency Deutsch in New York. "Advertisers are creating an armed camp of habituated enthusiasts."

Advertisers are taking their cue from Volkswagen. The German automaker took a risk last year by releasing its Super Bowl ad for its redesigned 2012 Passat sedan that features a young boy in a Darth Vader costume before the game aired. The gamble paid off and the ad quickly became a viral hit on video-sharing website YouTube, with 49.4 million views since.

The ad also helped boost sales of the Passat: The sedan went on sale in the summer and has been a popular seller for Volkswagen in the U.S. In December, for example, volume sales of the car more than doubled to nearly 23,000 for the year.

This year, marketers are hoping to make a big splash by releasing their ads early, too. Careerbuilder.com's chimps are back for the eighth time, as is E(asterisk)Trade's baby who's making his fifth appearance. One Chevrolet spot has an end-of-the world scenario. And a vampire party is cut short by bright LED headlights on an Audi in an ad for the automaker.

So far, the two most talked about pre-released spots are by carmakers. Honda's CR-V ad starring Matthew Broderick in a grown-up version of his 1986 movie "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" has 10.2 million views.

Volkswagen's teaser ad — one that's not actually going to air during the Super Bowl — shows dogs barking "The Imperial March" from "Star Wars." The ad, with 11.2 million views, has been more popular than the actual Super Bowl ad, which shows a dog losing weight to chase a Beetle. It had 2.1 million views.

Releasing the spots early is a way for advertisers to engage people where they spend a lot of their time these days — online. Indeed, about two-thirds of smartphone and tablet computer users check their devices while they watch TV, according to research firm Nielsen. The ads can also make people feel like they're in the "know."

"People feel like they have a horse in the race if they find a commercial they like before the Super Bowl," says Barbara Lippert, curator of popular culture at ad agency Goodby, Silverstein & Partners in San Francisco, which worked on three Chevy spots for the Super Bowl. "They feel like an insider when they finally see it."

AP

This advertisement provided by Dannon Co,. shows a scene from the Dannon Oikos Greek Yogurt Super Bowl commercial, starring Jessica Blackmore and John Stamos. The Dannon Oikos advertisement will run during the third quarter of Super Bowl XLVI, Sunday, Feb 5, 2012.

But with so many pre-released ads this year, the strategy could backfire, said Raymond Taylor, a professor of marketing at the Villanova School of Business in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

For instance, he says Honda's Acura ad that shows comedians Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld competing for the first Acura NSX sports car might have gotten more buzz if it hadn't been released early. The ad, which has gotten 10.8 million views, includes little touches like a cameo from the actor who played the "Soup Nazi" character from the "Seinfeld" TV comedy.

"Releasing the ad early takes away the element of surprise and reduces the possibility of a real 'wow' factor during the game," Taylor says.

Best Buy wanted to preserve the surprise factor of its spot, so it decided to only release details about its ad—not the ad itself.

Katy Perry gets her flirt on at the NFL Awards

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Newly single Katy Perry is on the prowl, and she may have set her sights on a certain rookie quarterback.

Perry is in Indianapolis to perform at DirectTV's pre-Super Bowl party on Saturday, but first, she stopped by the Associated Press NFL Awards to serve as a presenter.

Perry playfully flirted with co-presenter Cam Newton, saying: "You'll be the first straight man I've had a photo with in a long time, so live up to it."

The Carolina Panthers star smiled big and coyly replied, "I am."

Newton won the 2011 offensive rookie of the year award.

Perry's husband, comedian Russell Brand, filed for divorce earlier in the year from the "Firework" singer.

AP

Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton holds the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year trophy during the inaugural NFL Honors show Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, in Indianapolis.T

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the family of the late

Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Sr.

Would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our families, friends and neighbors here and abroad, for your kindness, support and words of encouragement during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness and prayers has deeply touched us. We are eternally indebted to you all.

We extend our special thanks to:

Father Celso, Father Rey, Marilyn Jones (Techa), Acelia Dela Cruz (Techa), Marcie Cepeda, Margaret Dela Cruz, Kristo Rai Choir, ADA Funeral Home (Guam) and Cabrera Funeral Home (Saipan).

You will always be remembered by the family of the late URBANO CRISOSTIMO BABAUTA, SR., who rests in peace with our Creator.

May God Bless you all!!!

Thank you yan Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Dolores "LING BANO" Babauta and Family

‘Tebowing’ Alec Baldwin hosts NFL Honors

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Trying to do his best “Tebowing,” Alec Baldwin got a bit of help on stage.

The host of “NFL Honors” on NBC was kneeling down when Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow stepped up and showed Baldwin how it’s really done.

“Bless you, Tim,” Baldwin responded.

That capped a nearly 10-minute monologue Saturday night on the eve of the Super Bowl as The Associated Press awards for the 2011 season were announced.

Baldwin started by walking into the glittery crowd, handing a football to Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers and asking the AP NFL Most Valuable Player to sign it.

The “30 Rock” star then tossed around the jokes, taking equal shots at the NFL, Madonna and the Kardashians, mostly to big laughs from the likes of Joe Namath, Rex Ryan and Cam Newton. All the while, Baldwin clutched his prized souvenir.

The evening’s first presenter, Katy Perry, kept in the spirit.

“Hi Tim, my parents said hi,” Perry told Tebow. Both of the 27-year-old singer’s parents are pastors—Tebow was raised by missionary parents.

Early in his monologue, Baldwin pretended he saw Madonna—who’s performing at halftime of the game between the New England Patriots and New York Giants in the audience. He pointed out it was instead Packers linebacker Clay Matthews.

“I was confused by the hair and biceps,” he said to a roomful of laughs. Matthews, for the moment, didn’t look too amused.

Baldwin jabbed a famous reality show family, too. Mentioning the power and popularity of the NFL, “It would take 800 years for the Kardashians to date and destroy all of them.”

AP

Denver Broncos’ Tim Tebow reacts after correcting Alec Baldwin on his Tebowing form during the inaugural NFL Honors show Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, in Indianapolis.

But Baldwin did not spare the NFL.

He told the audience New England coach Bill Belichick was tucking in his Patriots and telling them that Giants coach Tom Coughlin was not hiding in their closet.

He joked about the NFL lockout, saying fans would’ve had to resort to watching Canadian football with teams with silly names such as the Argonauts.

And he compared Philadelphia quarterback Vince Young’s preseason comments of being on a dream team with a bad dream—the nightmare of being naked in school. The Eagles lost four of their first five games.

After the award for the AP Defensive Rookie of the year, Baldwin sat next to former NFL star Archie Manning and asked him: “Peyton or Eli?”

Rather than choose between his quarterback sons, Manning offered a quick retort.

“Let me ask the question: Alec or Billy?” Manning said.

Conveniently, the younger Baldwin brother was sitting right in front of Alec.

As for the postgame altercation between coaches Jim Harbaugh of the 49ers and Jim Schwartz of the Lions, “I haven’t seen a handshake that awkward since Nixon met Elvis.”

Before the show, players were eager to hear Baldwin’s take on the NFL.

“He’ll say anything but he’s always funny,” Jacksonville Jaguars running back Maurice Jones-Drew said.

The evening’s presenters included television host Jimmy Fallon, “Mad Men” star Jon Hamm and “Entourage” actress Emmanuelle Chriqui.

Steven Tyler defends national anthem performance

NORTH GREENFIELD, Ind. (AP)—Steven Tyler says he meant to sing the national anthem like that.

The Aerosmith frontman and “American Idol” judge endured plenty of jabs after his rendition of the anthem at the AFC Championship game last month, but Tyler says he doesn’t understand what all the fuss was about.

“I don’t know. As I said before, I put emphasis on, `In the land of the free’ and I went up,” Tyler explained. “Oddly enough I hit the note so I don’t know what they are talking about. I emphasized `free’ which was for freedom. It was well thought out prior to. I wasn’t messing with American tradition.”

Enduring negative criticism at that football game did not stop Tyler from enjoying pre-Super Bowl festivities with Carrie Underwood. The duo is in Indianapolis for CMT’s “Crossroads,” which brings acts from different genres together to perform. It’s not the first time the two have sung together: They performed a duet at the Academy of Country Music Awards last year.

“I just love to sing and I love her stuff. A good friend of mine writes songs with her. When I heard `Undo It,’ I said, `What is that?’ That is an Aerosmith song, right? I am going to finish recording that with you. He said, `No, I wrote that with Carrie, it is coming out in a week,’” he said. “I met her and it was all over after that, once I looked into her eyes. She opened her mouth and sang and she is that good. I loved singing with her.”

The two rehearsed Thursday evening in North Greenfield, just outside of Indianapolis, ahead of their scheduled Saturday show (it will air the same night on the network). The former “Idol” champ says she enjoys working with the lively Tyler because he “makes everybody all warm and fuzzy.”

While Tyler, closely connected to Boston for years, made clear he was rooting for the New England Patriots in Sunday’s game against the New York Giants, Underwood demurred when asked to name her pick. In her house, she says hockey is the main focus, since husband Mike Fisher is a professional hockey player in Nashville.

“He is Canadian so I have had to switch his focus from so much hockey to a little football because we watch a lot of hockey,” she said. “I love watching him and I love watching the Predators.”

AP

In this April 3, 2011 file photo, singers Steven Tyler and Carrie Underwood perform at the 46th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

‘Twilight’ star Kellan Lutz defends Gisele

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—”Twlight” star Kellan Lutz sympathizes with Gisele Bundchen.

Earlier in the week, some criticized the supermodel and wife of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady after an email she reportedly sent to friends and family encouraging them to pray for her husband’s success in the Super Bowl game against the New York Giants was leaked.

“I found that very endearing,” Lutz said about the email. “Very sweet to have a wife do that for her husband and give that positive energy. I think we all need that in the world. To listen to the news broadcasters ... be negative towards that, I think it is really (bad).”

The die-hard football fan, who just attended the Pro Bowl, kicked off Super Bowl weekend by attending a Friday night party hosted by Audi. Lutz, who has been to Super Bowl weekend before, said he wants the Patriots to win Sunday.

AP

In this Nov. 9, 2011 photo, Kellan Lutz arrives at the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2011.

“They have a great team. Solid team,” he said. “I fell in love with Tom Brady. Met him once. Really great guy and they have a really solid team. Even if Tom isn’t playing, their team is solid.”

The actor may be known for his rock solid body, but says it dwarfs in comparison to the NFL players.

“All of these guys are definitely big guys,” Lutz said with a smile. “I feel small. It is a weird feeling because in Hollywood you work with actors who are small. I love sports. I love football.”

Other attendees at the Audi party included director Spike Lee, football great Jim Brown, Sherri Shepherd of ABC’s “The View,” and “Glee” star Matthew Morrison.

Morrison said he’s rooting for a Giants win: “I lived in New York for 13 years.” He also said he was enjoying the energy in the city: “They’re real die-hard football fans here.”

Audi wasn’t the only party in Indianapolis on Friday night. There were several celebrity soirees, including one thrown by Playboy, where Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers hung out in the VIP area as lingerie-clad acrobats dangled from ropes from the ceiling.

Goodell says league expanding prime time games

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL is increasing the number of Thursday night games so more of its teams can play in prime time.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said that there will be Thursday night games on the NFL Network from the second to the 15th week of the season, giving all of the league’s teams a chance to appear in prime time on some outlet.

Those games will be in addition to the usual Sunday night and Monday night games, which tend to feature teams coming off good seasons.

Goodell revealed the television scheduling change at his state of the NFL news conference Friday.

AP

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell answers a question during a news conference Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, in Indianapolis.

He sidestepped a question about expanding the regular season schedule, saying it’s something that would have to be evaluated along with the players.

Celebs suit up for DirecTV Beach Bowl

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Deion Sanders said he wasn't worried. Joe Montana went in with his game face on and Jordin Sparks just hoped sand did not end up in her eyes.

Athletes and celebrities had different strategies as they prepared to play in the sixth annual DirectTV Celebrity Beach Bowl. The event teams up stars with former and current professional athletes for a flag football game on the sand.

Assistant coach Neil Patrick Harris admitted he didn't know much about the game, so he was going to rely on his teammates to make the calls.

"I really am not competitive at all. I quite frankly don't know what is going to happen or what we are playing," the actor said with a smile. "I know it is football of some sort, but it might be flag football, touch, two-handed touch. I don't know."

Lucky for him, legend Joe Montana was on his team.

"I hate to lose," Montana said ahead of the game. "I am not very good at losing. You try to go into this as it's going to be a fun game, but as soon as you get involved ... if they score, you go, `OK.' You have got to at least keep it competitive. I can't just go through the motions. I want to win."

Sparks arrived with her dad, Phillippi Sparks, a former New York Giant. The former "American Idol" champ says she wasn't expecting intense action.

"I know it is not tackle. They are just grabbing the flag, but who knows, we could get tripped up and stuff, so I am glad there is sand," she said. "I am nervous about it getting in my eyes if I fall but other than that, it is going to be a lot of fun. I am excited. "

As for the other big game in Indianapolis, Sanders said he would not pick the New England Patriots or the New York Giants to win on Sunday.

"I am a former player. I am not rooting for anybody. I just want a good quality game. I just want the fans to be entertained for three and a half hours. I want Madonna to come out and do the doggone thing like she can do it," he said of her halftime performance.

Other big names at the event included Peyton Manning, Chace Crawford, Cam Newton, Terrell Owens and David Arquette, who said he's been having a great time in Indianapolis.

"What I really like about Super Bowl in general is that it introduces you to another city," he said. "Indianapolis is a beautiful city a lot of people might not know about or have not visited. To come here and to meet the people and see the city, that is my favorite part actually."

AP

Actor David Arquette arrives at DIRECTV's Sixth Annual Celebrity Beach Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

Keith Urban makes return from vocal surgery

AP

In this Nov. 9, 2011 file photo, country singer Keith Urban performs during the 45th Annual CMA Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Keith Urban is back.

The country star returned to the stage during The Grand Ole Opry on Friday night, hitting a few high notes in his first public appearance since vocal surgery late last year.

Urban let loose with a "Yee-haw!" after a standing-room only crowd at Ryman Auditorium leapt to its feet when he took the stage.

He played three songs and an unexpected encore. He was joined by a string quartet on "Long Hot Summer," then turned down the volume and sang "Making Memories of Us" microphone-free with the audience. His full band then joined him on stage for "You Gonna Fly" and "I Wanna Love Somebody Like You."

Urban didn't address the surgery while speaking with the crowd.

The 44-year-old Australian had a polyp removed from a vocal cord last November. His last public performance was at a taping for the "CMA Country Christmas" television special in mid-November. The surgery forced Urban to postpone the tail end of his 2011 tour and his "All For The Hall" benefit for the Country Music Hall of Fame. That star-studded event is now being held April 10.

Schwarzenegger visits Taj Mahal, finds it closed

NEW DELHI (AP)—Arnold Schwarzenegger's dream of visiting the Taj Mahal has been dashed.

The former California governor traveled to the Indian city of Agra on Friday, the one day each week the monument is closed to tourists because of Muslim prayers at a nearby mosque.

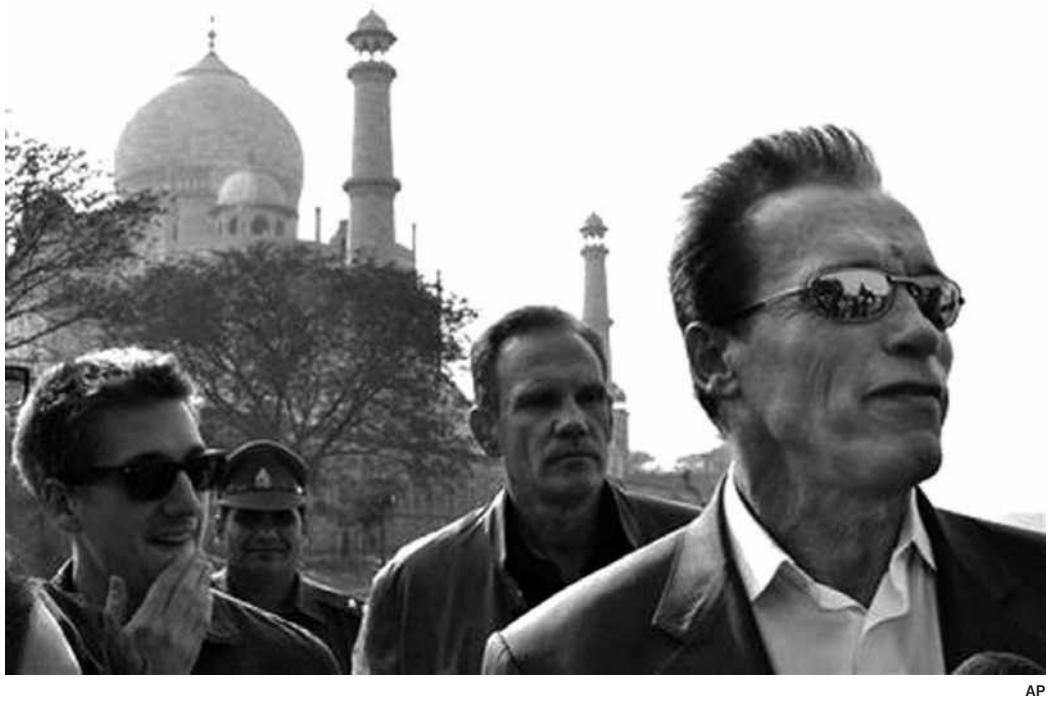
His tour guide Nitin Singh said the movie star was disappointed and had to view the Taj Mahal from a nearby road.

Schwarzenegger took pictures with his cellphone and posed for photos with the Taj as the backdrop.

He is in India for an environmental conference.

He told a TV channel he would consider acting in Bollywood if offered an interesting script with a good director.

"I'll be back," he told the cheering studio audience.



AP

Austrian born Hollywood star and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, stands in front of the historic Taj Mahal, in Agra, India, Friday, Feb. 3, 2012.

Savings bond gift matures into mother/daughter battle

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 30 years old and have a close relationship with my mother, but something is bothering me. When I was a little girl, my grandmother gave me a U.S. savings bond for my birthday. It has matured to its full value. My mother refuses to give it to me. She said that my grandmother intended it as a wedding gift.

The last time I brought it up, she got teary and emotional. When my grandmother died 18 years ago, it was tremendously painful for my mother. I think the reason Mom won't give me the money is it makes her feel like her mom is still around. By letting go of the bond, she would be letting go of one more piece of my grandmother.

I also think it makes her sad to picture her mom not being there at my wedding. Despite all this, I can't help but feel she's using this to have some control over me.

I'm studying for my master's degree in special education, and some extra money would be helpful at the moment. I don't plan on marrying anyone anytime soon. I feel sad and angry. Does my mother have the right to withhold the bond and decide how and when I can use the money? Should I drop the issue and let her choose when to give it to me? Please help, I need your advice.

30-YEAR-OLD CHILD

DEAR "CHILD": Your grandmother gave you the savings bond as a BIRTHDAY gift. When you became an adult, it should have been given to you then. You're a big girl now, and whether you decide to marry or not it should be yours to do with as you wish.

It's time to hand your mother a large box of tissues and have a heart-to-heart talk with her about that savings bond. Don't let her off the hook, and don't be surprised if she finally admits she spent the money.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: How does one let a gum chewer know, tactfully, that the smell is revolting? Besides the irritation and rudeness of chewing/popping with one's mouth open, certain smells often affect me physically.

From a young age, I have suffered from migraine headaches, which can bring on temporary loss of vision and vomiting. The scent of certain mints—like spearmint—triggers migraines. My doctor has warned me to avoid these triggers. However, in a confined area like an airplane, or sandwiched between two chewers at a concert, it's impossible. I become violently ill from the smell. I have tried politely explaining my situation, but the chewer is often indifferent, indignant or unsympathetic.

Abby, I'm at a loss. My husband and I often leave concerts we were looking forward to because of this problem. What can one do or say in a situation when sitting for hours in an assigned seat next to a gum chewer?

HURTING IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

DEAR HURTING: In a theater, the first thing you should do is explain the problem to the gum chewer just as you did to me. Say that the smell of certain mints triggers migraines that sometimes result in spontaneous vomiting, and ask if the person can dispose of the gum before you become ill. If the person refuses, ask an usher to seat you elsewhere.

When you're on an airplane and trapped in similar circumstances, get up and ask a flight attendant to locate a seat for you that's far enough away so you won't be affected. In most instances, you will be accommodated.

Your problem is not trivial. Sensitivity to certain scents can trigger serious physical reactions, including closure of a person's air passages.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

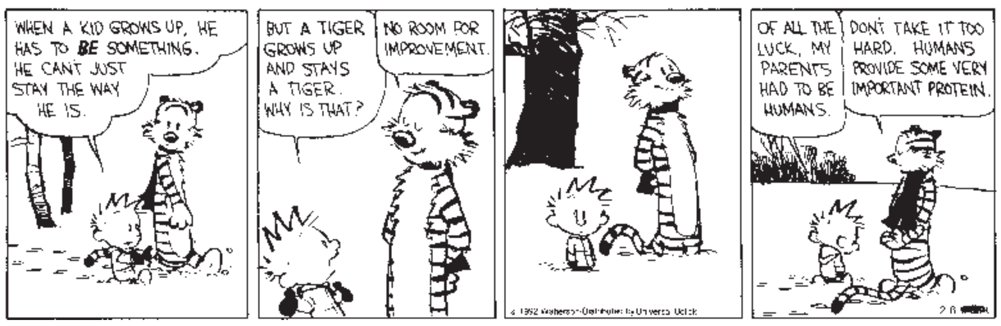
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

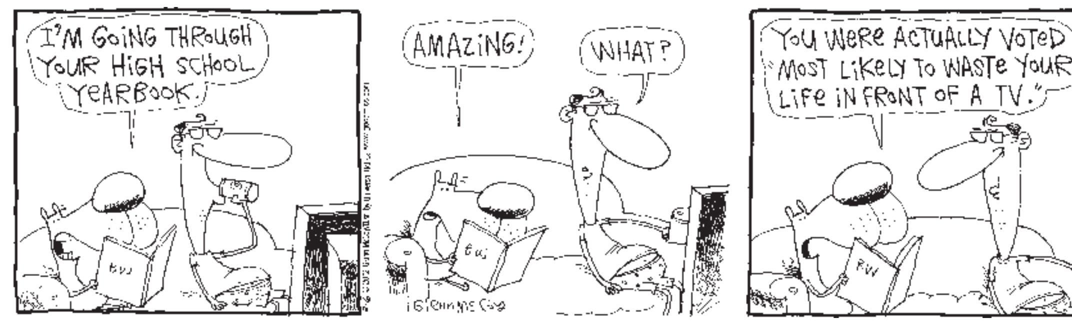
By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

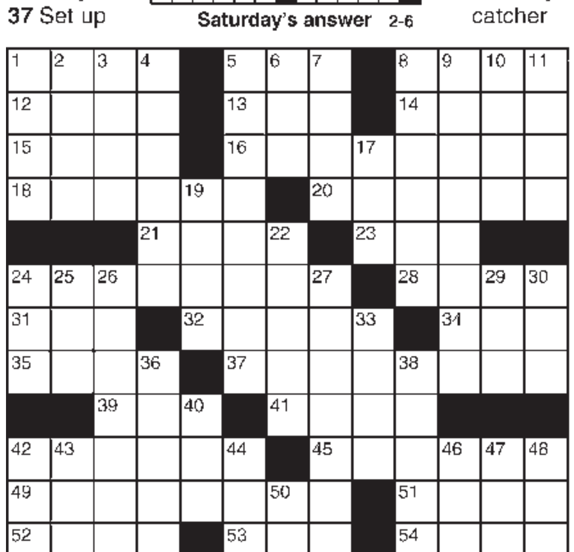
ACROSS
- **1** Player of old 45s
- **5** Small barrel
- **8** Rotate
- **12** Thing
- **13** Romano or Liotta
- **14** Choir voice
- **15** Wound cover
- **16** Incoming flights
- **18** Horror movie reaction
- **20** With uniformity
- **21** Boast
- **23** Big laugh
- **24** In handcuffs, maybe
- **28** Tower city of Italy
- **31** Debt letters
- **32** Gin and —
- **34** Convent person
- **35** Give temporarily
- **37** Set up
- **39** Neighbor of Kan.
- **41** Architect Saarinen
- **42** Short coat
- **45** OPEC, for one
- **49** Overbearingly proud
- **51** Bamako's land
- **52** Warm and cozy
- **53** Hair salon application
- **54** "Woe is me!"
- **55** Enlivens, with "up"
- **56** Pigpen
- **57** Period after Mardi Gras

DOWN
- **1** Greet the villain
- **2** Need to scratch
- **3** "— Factor"
- **4** Drink to excess
- **5** Indonesian volcano
- **6** Listening organ
- **7** Move in a spiral
- **8** Prepare for a big purchase
- **9** Recent fad
- **10** "— have to do"
- **11** Inquisitive
- **17** Wall climber
- **19** Formerly, formerly
- **22** Literary category
- **24** Have a bug
- **25** Fish eggs
- **26** Second-place contestant
- **27** Without detouring
- **29** Take to court
- **30** Moreover
- **33** Irene of "Fame"
- **36** Clears the windshield, in a way
- **38** Standard
- **40** Plead
- **42** Grate
- **43** Sea eagle
- **44** Tatters
- **46** Story
- **47** Verve
- **48** Roster
- **50** Butterfly catcher

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	A	F	S	O	P	■	B	R	I	T	O	N
A	R	M	A	D	A	■	E	U	C	H	R	E
S	I	M	M	E	R	■	A	M	E	R	C	E
K	A	Y	O	■	A	R	U	M	■	E	A	R
■	■	■	A	B	B	E	■	Y	E	W	■	■
R	U	B	■	L	O	T	S	■	T	O	C	A
C	R	A	Z	Y	L	I	K	E	A	F	O	X
A	N	T	E	■	A	R	E	A	■	F	O	E
■	■	T	E	A	■	E	L	U	L	■	■	■
S	O	L	■	R	U	D	E	■	A	S	I	F
O	L	I	V	E	S	■	T	I	P	P	L	E
L	I	N	E	N	S	■	O	R	I	O	L	E
D	O	G	E	A	R	■	N	E	S	T	S	■

Saturday's answer 2-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kris Humphries, 27; Kathy Najimy, 55; Natalie Cole, 62; Tom Brokaw, 72.

Happy Birthday: Originality will count. Don't be afraid to make suggestions that are somewhat unique. You may not get everyone on board, but the people who make the decisions will see you as an insightful and capable game changer. Follow your intuition and strive for perfection. Your numbers are 2, 8, 13, 25, 29, 33, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be open to new ideas. Let your creative juices flow. Socialize and network, and most of all, look for love, friendship or a business partner who has as much to bring to the table as you do. It's time to embrace new people and experiences. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let what others do or say cause volatility in your life. Remain calm and keep your emotions tucked away where no one will be able to take advantage of your vulnerabilities. Keep business. It's what you accomplish that will count. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. Realize what you are capable of doing and head for the finish line. Strive to stand out and make a difference. Speak on behalf of a cause and you will discover new talents. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A change is necessary. Make it happen instead of waiting to be forced to move on. Choice is a wonderful thing, but if you don't utilize the right to choose, you will continue to give in and give up. Take control and win. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your emotions will spark an impulsive streak that, if controlled properly, can catapult you into the winner's circle. Calculate your every move, but do so with finesse and punctuality. Take the spotlight and wear the recognition you receive with pride. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Question your decisions before you follow through. You may not be thinking too clearly when it comes to the outcome. Look to someone you respect and follow whatever pattern or course will result in your success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Wager the pros and cons, especially when it comes to long-term employment. Recognizing the potential of a company, service or opportunity will be the key to choosing the best option that arises. Your ideas will be valued and put to use. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Physical action will be your best alternative. Focus on networking, creativity and staying out of trouble with people connected to you personally. Love is on the rise, but only if it's a physical encounter. Self-improvement will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be fighting a losing battle at home if you don't stick to the budget. Alternative living arrangements will give you a new perspective on the possibilities that exist. Let past experience help you make a good choice now. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be pulled in different directions. Size up your situation and make a choice based on what's tangible. Keeping your wits about you will save you when unexpected developments appear. Assess your situation and make a strategic move. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll handle any situation you face with clarity and common sense. Listen to your inner voice and believe in your own ability to do what's best. Greater stability will be yours if you make the right choice now. Be good to you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Kindness and generosity will win support and help you put past mistakes behind you. Size up your situation and make your decisions based on facts, figures and the truth and you will bypass an emotional mistake caused by overreacting. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, passionate and engaging. You are compassionate and cautious.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6		7		2	8		5	3
5			6			1		
	9				1			2
8		1					3	
9				5				1
	6					9		4
1			8				6	
		4			9			8
3	8		7	1		2		9

Difficulty Level ★ 2/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	1	2	6	9	4	5	7
7	9	2	4	1	5	8	3	6
4	5	6	7	8	3	9	2	1
2	1	4	3	5	8	7	6	9
5	3	9	6	4	7	1	8	2
6	7	8	1	9	2	5	4	3
1	6	5	9	2	4	3	7	8
8	2	7	5	3	1	6	9	4
9	4	3	8	7	6	2	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOBBY PINS — **Solution: 9 letters**

D	D	G	S	L	I	D	E	B	L	E	N	D	S	R
E	R	E	N	S	N	L	Y	B	R	I	K	C	D	E
L	O	O	H	O	E	C	N	L	N	M	T	E	P	H
E	F	I	L	G	L	I	R	E	A	R	V	R	O	T
W	D	A	A	O	P	U	T	N	E	R	O	O	N	E
E	S	N	S	R	C	E	A	N	U	F	K	R	F	G
J	T	E	I	T	E	G	D	C	E	R	O	E	L	O
N	T	A	C	N	E	H	G	S	L	W	A	V	O	T
O	H	I	N	O	V	N	S	C	E	A	T	L	W	D
I	S	F	G	R	I	I	E	U	R	L	S	I	E	L
T	B	E	I	H	O	F	S	R	P	O	Y	S	R	O
I	S	E	C	N	T	D	F	I	T	E	S	T	I	H
S	D	N	A	U	G	L	N	U	B	E	A	S	S	C
O	I	L	U	D	R	E	Y	I	R	L	A	T	E	M
P	S	W	O	B	S	E	R	P	F	E	E	D	I	S

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Last Saturday's Answer: Iron Man

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **LUCINDA ROSA L. ROSARIO,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0422** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 24 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2567,, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **CYPRIANO KAIPAT BERKI and MELVA JUDYANN MUNA BERKI,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0485** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 28, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1236, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Division of Land and Surveys Official Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 23, the original of which was recorded October 10, 1996, as Document No. 96-2556 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **CARLOS ALDAN AGUON and LOLITA BALUYU AGUON,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0488** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 55, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900,, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Martin, 4 linemen make Hall of Fame

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Curtis Martin has gone from the mean streets of Pittsburgh to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The star running back with the Patriots and Jets for 11 seasons was one of six players elected Saturday to the shrine. Martin once disliked playing the game, but used it to escape a neighborhood where his grandmother was murdered.

"When I get awarded something like the Hall of Fame, it's almost foreign to me," said Martin, the NFL's No. 4 career rusher. "This wasn't something I planned on doing. Football is something I did so I didn't end up jailed or dead.

"If you make up your mind to just do the right thing no matter what ... and you stick to it, which I did, this is how things can turn around. I feel as if my life turned around from what it used to be, and I think anyone has a chance."

Martin and four linemen were elected to the hall, along with one senior committee choice. He is joined by Chris Doleman, Cortez Kennedy, Willie Roaf, Dermontti Dawson, and senior selection Jack Butler.

Jerome Bettis, Cris Carter and Bill Parcells were among the finalists who didn't make it.

"I'm not even close to this position, I actually don't think I'd play more than four or five years without Bill Parcells," Martin said, indicating he will have his former coach present him for induction on Aug. 4 in Canton, Ohio.

A panel of 44 media members voted.

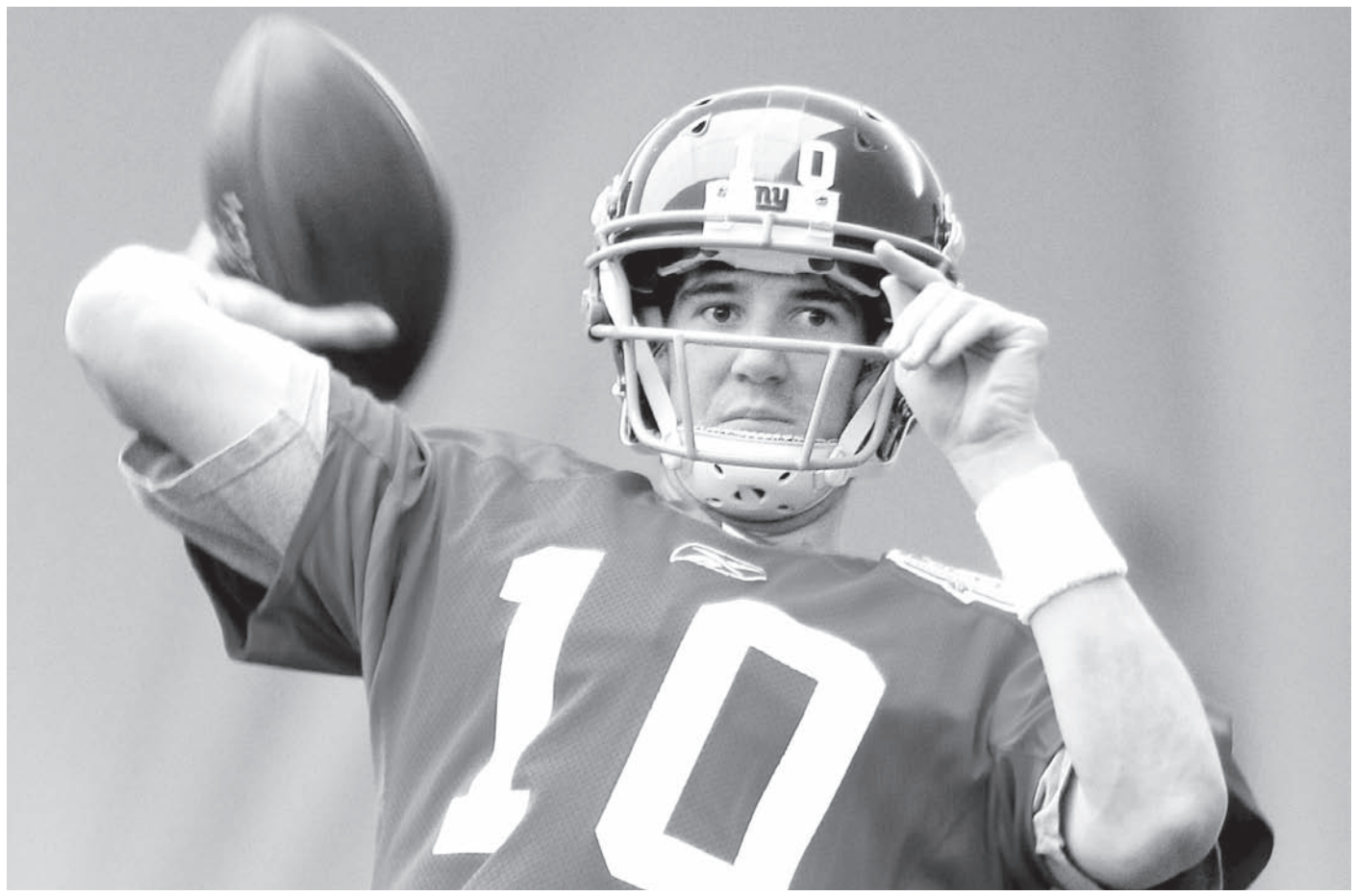
Martin made it for his consistency and durability, rushing for 14,101 and 90 touchdowns. He rushed for at least 1,000 yards in each of his first 10 seasons, the first three with New England and the others with the Jets. The 1995 Offensive Rookie of the Year, Martin won the NFL rushing title in 2004 with 1,697 yards.

Doleman and Kennedy were sackmasters from the defensive line, Doleman at end and Kennedy at tackle.

Doleman had 150 1/2 sacks in his 15 seasons, mostly with Minnesota, and was one of the prototype agile yet powerful pass rushers who dominate the game today. He made the Pro Bowl eight times and was fourth on the sacks list when he retired.

"I am totally blown away by this and humbled by it," Doleman said, adding his son, Evan, would present him for induction. "When they call your name, you're absolutely numb."

Kennedy was a force inside, both as a run stopper and in threatening quarterbacks. The 1992 Defensive Player of the Year made eight Pro Bowls, had 58 sacks—an unusually high total for a tackle—and spent his entire 11-season career with Seattle.



AP

New York Giants' Eli Manning throws during practice, Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, in Indianapolis. The Giants will face the New England Patriots in the NFL football Super Bowl XLVI on Feb. 5.

He waited by his phone to hear whether he'd made it after a six-year wait, and was happy he had the television on when the announcement was made.

"I thought I was supposed to get a call. I didn't get a call. I had to watch it on TV," Kennedy said.

"I am very excited right now."

Roaf spent enough time in his 13 seasons with New Orleans and Kansas City blocking the likes of Doleman and Kennedy. He played one season at right tackle, then the rest of his career on the left side, making 11 Pro Bowls. He made the All-Decade team for the 1990s.

"He possessed exceptional physical talent and a great work ethic," said Jim Mora, who coached in New Orleans for 11 seasons. "He was blessed with high quality character and a team-oriented attitude. He was a team leader, always positive, upbeat, and a fun guy to coach and have on the team. Without question Willie was one of my best and favorite players ever."

Dawson made seven Pro Bowls as the Steelers' center, that rare snapper who also could block defensive players one on one. He replaced a Hall of Famer, Mike Webster, and started for Pittsburgh for most of his 13 pro seasons.

"You never know what your career is going to turn out to be," Dawson said. "I knew I had big shoes to fill `cause it was my first year playing center. I never would have thought I would be in this position after my career."

"It is a great honor and because of being selected today, my phone has blown up."

Butler also played for the Steelers as a cornerback from 1951-59, picking off 52 passes, at the time second most in NFL history. But he was best known for his tackling skills.

"They told me I was good. I didn't know I was good," Butler said. "I never, ever, ever thought I would be here."

Guard Will Shields didn't get in—the only first-year eligible player to make the 15-man finals. Shields started all but one of the 224 games in his 14 seasons in Kansas City.

Bettis also fell short. He was the 1993 Offensive Rookie of the Year with the Rams who retired in 2006 after winning his only Super Bowl with the Steelers. He is the NFL's No. 5 career rusher.

Parcells coached the Giants to Super Bowl titles in the 1987 and 1991 games and also lost the 1997 Super Bowl with New England. He coached the New York Jets and Dallas Cowboys, too.

Carter is the No. 4 career receiver with 1,101 in 16 seasons with three teams.

Others not voted in were receivers Tim Brown and Andre Reed, defensive end/linebackers Kevin Greene and Charles Haley, defensive back Aeneas Williams, and former 49ers owner Ed DeBartolo Jr.

Super matchups everywhere with Pats-Giants

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—MVP quarterbacks on marquee franchises. A rematch of a nail-biter from four years ago, featuring many of the same key characters. Madonna and plenty of Manning—Eli, and Peyton, too.

This Super Bowl certainly has all the makings of another thriller, the perfect finish to a season that began in turmoil and wound up the most successful in league history.

The NFL couldn't have planned it any better.

"It's actually been a very fun week here," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, seeking his fourth Super Bowl ring in 11 seasons, and doing it in the city where archrival Peyton Manning has worked for 13 years—if not for much longer, given his health issues and disagreements with Colts management. "It's a bit surreal to be playing in Indy's home stadium and to be practicing at their facility."

It's been even weirder for Eli Manning to have led the Giants here, only to find his superb season and chase for a second championship overshadowed by big brother.

The most popular storyline this week has been Peyton's pain in his neck. Or, rather, his status following three neck surgeries in 19 months; whether the Colts will keep him around, at the cost of a $28 million roster bonus due in March; and whether he's truly feuding with owner Jim Irsay's rebuilding organization.

Eli, who will surpass his brother for NFL titles with a victory Sunday at Lucas Oil Stadium—yes, Peyton's Place—claims his sibling's issues are irrelevant to this game, in which New York (12-7) is a 3-point underdog.

"I'm proud of Peyton. I've talked to him this week. None of that comes up," Eli said. "When I talk to Peyton, he does a great job of trying to keep me relaxed. (We) talk a little football and talk about New England some. He's supported me this week. I know he's just working hard trying to get healthy and I'm going to support him on that."

While Eli would own two championships with a victory, to one for Peyton, Brady could tie his childhood quarterbacking hero, Joe Montana, and Terry Bradshaw with four. Coach Bill Belichick would equal Chuck Noll with the same number.

To get it, the Patriots (15-3) must protect their crown jewel. Four years ago, Brady was banged around so much by New York that it turned the Super Bowl in the Giants' favor.

Yes, they needed David Tyree's miracle pin-the-ball-against-the-helmet catch, then Plaxico Burress' touchdown reception to shatter New England's perfect season. But that victory was built on the relentless pressure applied to Brady.

The formula hasn't changed.

"We feel that we certainly have a very strong group of men in the front," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "It's just the way we play and prefer to play. It's a pressure group, and we have played better in the back end as well, probably as a result of the ball having to come out faster than it has at certain times during the year."

Brady certainly remembers the pain, physically and emotionally, from the beating he took on the field and the scoreboard.

"Any time you lose, it's a tough thing," Brady said. "We've lost one Super Bowl. I remember waking up in Arizona the next morning after an hour of sleep thinking, `That was a nightmare, that didn't happen.' After time, you learn to move on and get over it."

The Giants got all over Brady again during their regular season 24-20 win at Foxborough, the last time the Patriots lost. That victory preceded a four-game slide, and New York eventually slipped to 7-7 before turning it around.

Adding to the juicy potential of a down-to-the-wire reprise of 2008, both teams barely made it to Indy. The Patriots needed backup cornerback Sterling Moore stripping the ball from Baltimore receiver Lee Evans in the end zone in the final seconds, then for Billy Cundiff to miss a 32-yard field goal that would have forced overtime.

The Giants went into overtime in San Francisco, using two botched punt returns by the 49ers to advance.

"We feel very fortunate to be here, and I'm pretty sure they do, too," Patriots Pro Bowl nose tackle Vince Wilfork. "But we also know we deserve to be here, and they know they deserve it. We are two very good and very confident teams."

Teams owned by two of the key figures in solving the 4 1/2-month lockout of the players last year. New England's Robert Kraft shuttled back and forth from the meetings to his dying wife's bedside late in the negotiating process. Myra Kraft passed away days before the lockout was resolved.

His players wore a patch with her initials MHK on the left side of their jerseys this season.

"The fact that she was so dear to me and all of our players are wearing her initials above their heart is an endearing thing," Kraft said. "What she represented is important and I hope that special sense of spirit comes through."

Giants owner John Mara played an equally important role in the labor negotiations, and when both teams reached the Super Bowl, Kraft mentioned "a certain karma" about the matchup.

"I'm not necessarily happy to be playing Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, I'll tell you that," Mara joked. "But yeah, I'm very happy for Bob because he put his heart and soul into those negotiations during a very difficult time for him and his family, so I think the success they've had is well-deserved."

When they finally kick off Sunday, the two biggest stars will be Brady and Manning—yes, Eli. Not halftime performer Madonna, but the quarterbacks on whose arms, wits and leadership this Super Bowl will turn.

"They are both leaders on the field," Wilfork said. "I think that position you have to be smart, you have to be intelligent. I think you have to understand what's going on around you. I think both those guys have that."

On Sunday, we'll see which one adds to his championship legacy with another Super Bowl ring.

Parker's 42 powers Spurs past NBA-best Thunder

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker scored 42 points and broke the Spurs' franchise record for career assists, leading San Antonio to a 107-96 win over the NBA-best Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday.

The Thunder (18-5) narrowly averted their worst loss this season, while the convincing win was just the springboard San Antonio needed before spending next three weeks on the road—where the Spurs have hardly been as dominant.

All-Star Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Parker scored a season high and had nine assists. The record-breaker was a dish to Tim Duncan—appropriately enough—in the third quarter that put him past Avery Johnson for the all-time franchise mark.

AP

San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9), of France, goes to the hoop against Oklahoma City Thunder's Nazr Mohammed, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012, in San Anotnio.

Kings 114, Warriors 106, OT

In Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton scored 28 points and Tyreke Evans had 26 points and nine assists to help Sacramento beat Golden State in overtime.

Dorrell Wright scored 24 points for Golden State, which made a season-high 16 3-pointers. Nate Robinson had 20 points, Monta Ellis scored 18, Klay Thompson had 16, and Stephen Curry finished with 11.

DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and a career-high 20 rebounds, the first 20-20 game for the Kings since Brad Miller did it on Jan. 14, 2009. Jason Thompson added 15 points and 16 rebounds, and John Salmons contributed 15 points.

Bulls 113, Bucks 90

In Milwaukee, Derrick Rose scored 26 points and had 13 assists, and Luol Deng added 21 points in his return after missing seven games due to injury as Chicago downed Milwaukee.

Playing before a sellout Bradley Center crowd that seemed to be filled with more fans rooting for the Bulls, Deng scored on a layup from Rose just 76 seconds into the game.

The Bucks trailed by 24 at halftime and never threatened in the second half, resting all five starters in the fourth quarter.

Deng was averaging 15.9 points and 7.5 rebounds before tearing a ligament in his left wrist Jan. 21 against Charlotte.

Knicks 99, Nets 22

In New York, Jeremy Lin scored a career-high 25 points as New York salvaged the finale of a back-to-back-to-back set against New Jersey.

Lin came off the bench to control a struggling offense, adding seven assists while outplaying Nets All-Star point guard Deron Williams.

Amare Stoudemire and Tyson Chandler each added 17 points for the Knicks, who won for just the third time in 14 games. They fell just short in losses to Chicago and Boston over the last two nights before picking up a much-needed victory Saturday.

Williams had 21 points and 11 assists for the Nets, while Kris Humphries added 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Clippers 107, Wizards 81

In Washington, Blake Griffin had 21 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, and DeAndre Jordan had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Clippers over Washington.

Mo Williams added 17 for the Clippers, who won for the fifth time in six games.

Nick Young and John Wall each scored 14 for Washington, which lost its fourth game in a row and dropped to 4-20 this season.

Griffin narrowly missed his second career triple-double, despite not playing in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles rested its starters.

Griffin had a number of his usual crowd-pleasing dunks, saving his best for last. With a minute to play in the third quarter, Griffin soared high for an alley-oop dunk from Williams.

76ers 98, Hawks 87

In Atlanta, rookie Nikola Vucevic set a career high with 15 points to lead six Philadelphia scorers in double figures as the Sixers dodged back-to-back losses once again by beating Atlanta.

Jeff Teague had 21 points to lead Atlanta.

The Sixers led by 20 in the third period and kept the lead in double figures until the Hawks staged a final comeback attempt. Joe Johnson's basket with 1:45 remaining cut Philadelphia's lead to 94-85. Lou Williams, who had 14 points, answered with back-to-back baskets for the Sixers.

Cavaliers 91, Mavericks 88

In Cleveland, rookie Kyrie Irving made a driving layup in traffic with 15.8 seconds left to give Cleveland a win over the defending NBA champion Mavericks.

Irving, who is showing a knack for last-second drama in his first season, finished with 20 points and Anderson Varejao added 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Cavs.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and passed Elgin Baylor for 22nd place on the NBA's scoring list.

Timberwolves 100, Rockets 91

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love had 25 and 18 rebounds, and Luke Ridnour added 22 points to help Minnesota win for the fifth time in seven games to reach .500 (12-12).

Kyle Lowry had 24 points and 11 assists for Houston and Luis Scola also had 24 points, but Kevin Martin scored a season-low two points on 1-for-10 shooting.

It was only the second time this season Martin, who entered the game averaging 20.7 points, didn't score in double figures. It was his fewest point total since March of 2007, when he scored one point for Sacramento against Phoenix.

Magic 85, Pacers 81

In Indianapolis, Dwight Howard had 27 points and eight rebounds to lead Orlando over Indiana after the Magic were forced to stay in Cincinnati by the Super Bowl.

Danny Granger had 19 points and seven rebounds and Tyler Hansbrough had 17 points and seven rebounds for the Pacers, who have lost two of three to the Magic in less than two weeks.

Jason Richardson scored 17 points and Ryan Anderson scored 12 for the Magic, who have won three straight.

Pistons 89, Hornets 87

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Greg Monroe had 24 points and 16 rebounds as Detroit won a matchup of two of the NBA's worst teams.

Rodney Stuckey added 17 for Detroit (6-20), which won consecutive games for the second time this season and had five scorers in double figures.

New Orleans (4-20) lost its fifth straight. Trevor Ariza led the Hornets with 26.

Suns 95, Bobcats 89

In Phoenix, rarely used Robin Lopez scored nine consecutive points to spark a 12-2 run starting the fourth quarter as Phoenix handed Charlotte its 11th consecutive loss.

Michael Redd scored 17 points in his first start in nearly two years, Lopez finished with 13 and Marcin Gortat added 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, who have won two of three.

Kemba Walker had 22 points and Reggie Williams added 11 for the Bobcats.

Jazz 96, Lakers 87

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 18 points, Paul Millsap had 16, and Earl Watson keyed a game-clinching 14-0 fourth quarter run for Utah.

Watson scored eight points and had six assists in the fourth quarter as the Jazz beat the Lakers for the first time in three tries this season.

Kobe Bryant scored 26 points and Gasol had 24 points and 16 rebounds but the Lakers dropped to 3-8 on the road.

Spencer Levin opens 6-stroke lead in Phoenix Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Spencer Levin remained in control in the Phoenix Open in front of the largest crowd in tournament history, shooting a 3-under 68 on Saturday to take a six-stroke lead into the final round.

The crowd of 173,210 in perfect conditions at TPC Scottsdale's Stadium Course broke the record of 170,802 set in the third round in 2008.

"It was fun for sure, but I was trying to focus, too," Levin said about the huge crowd and party atmosphere. "You don't get that too often, all those people cheering."

Levin, five strokes ahead after the completion of the second round Saturday morning, had four birdies and a bogey to reach 17 under. The bogey on the par-5 15th was his first since the opening hole of the tournament.

"I felt like I played solid," Levin said. "I felt like I was in control of my ball most of the day, and yeah, I'm pleased. I've never had a big lead like that starting the day, and I thought I played well. Overall, I'm pleased about it."

Webb Simpson was 11 under after a 68. At No. 6 in the world, he's the highest-ranked player in the field.

"I feel good, but my swing is just not really getting in sync," Simpson said. "I'm missing the ball left and right. I want to polish that up. But I made a bunch of good swings down the stretch that gave me a lot of confidence."

The 27-year-old Levin, remembered for a hole-in-one and 13th-place tie in the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock while still in school at New Mexico, is winless on the PGA Tour. He came close last year, losing a playoff to Johnson Wagner in the Mayakoba Golf Classic. Last week at Torrey Pines, Levin had a share of the first-round lead after a 62, but followed with rounds of 76, 73 and 72 to tie for 43rd.

"Hopefully, I can just stay calm, try my best and keep having fun," Levin said. "I'm going to try my best. That's all I'm going to do, and we'll see what happens."

Bubba Watson was seven strokes behind Levin after a 67.

"He's playing so good, you don't expect him to come back in the field," Watson said. "You're going to have to go chase him down."

Tour rookie John Huh also was 10 under after a 69.

Kyle Stanley was eight strokes back after a 69 as he tries to rebound from a devastating loss. On Sunday at Torrey Pines, he made a triple-bogey 8 on the final hole of regulation and lost to Brandt Snedeker in a playoff.

Jason Dufner, second last year after a playoff loss to Mark Wilson, shot a 68 to join Stanley, Chris Stroud (66), Greg Chalmers (67) and Ben Crane at 9 under.

Fan favorite Phil Mickelson was 8 under after a 67. The former Arizona State star won the tournament in 1996 and 2005.

"I'd like to be further up, but given where I was 27 holes ago, I'm in a really good spot," Mickelson said. "I'm starting to play some good golf, and I'm starting to get a little bit of momentum. I feel great with the putter."

Many players wore green clothing as part of title sponsor Waste Management's green-out at TPC Scottsdale. Rickie Fowler was one of the greenest, dressing in matching dark green shirt, pants, shoes and a green and white hat. Levin didn't follow the crowd, wearing a white shirt, visor and shoes and black pants.

After opening with rounds of 65 and 63, Levin got off to a good start Saturday with birdies on the third and fourth holes. He got up and down from the back fringe on the par-5 third, and made a 16-foot birdie putt on par-3 fourth.

He followed with eight straight pars, most tap-in putts after birdie misses, before two-putted for birdie on the par-5 13th to reach 17 under.

He bogeyed the par-5 15th after hooking his drive and having the ball bounce into the water that runs the length of the hole. Coupled with Simpson's birdie on the hole in the group ahead, that cut Levin's lead to four strokes.

"Kind of tugged that a little bit left," Levin said. "It wasn't that bad a shot, but if you hit anything in the left side of that fairway, it's probably going to go in the water. I didn't hit it where I wanted to."

Levin then saved par on the amphitheater par-3 16th after leaving his first attempt 5 feet short, holing a tricky sidehill putt. He then birdied the short, par-4 17th, blasting out of the right greenside bunker to 3 feet. On Friday, he eagled the hole when he holed out from the same bunker.

He was asked about playing with a big lead for the first time in his PGA Tour career.

"I tried not to think about it," Levin said. "I was just trying to focus on my game and my ball, and it worked out good today. I tried as hard as I could just to do what I did the first two days, and that's what I'm going to do tomorrow, too."

The start of play was delayed 15 minutes because of front after hour delays the first two days. Last year, frost and frozen greens delayed play nine hours during the week, forcing a Monday finish.

Eagles break into win column; Rays prevail

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MISO

Grace Christian Academy notched its first win of the season after defeating Mount Carmel School, 67-57, during their varsity game in the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Eagles' first taste of victory came after three dismal losses, while winless MCS endured its fifth straight loss.

The Eagles broke out to a quick 20-7 lead in the opening 10 minutes of the duel with Angelo Salas and Si Woo Kim combining for 13 markers in the early surge.

Teams traded baskets in the second quarter and GCA maintained control at halftime, 35-21. Knights center Thomas Kautz scrambled for six points to spark his team's offense, but MCS could not make enough stops on the other end.

Mt. Carmel did come out swinging after the break and pulled within three possessions, 38-45, heading into the final period. The Knights defense finally came alive in the third quarter and held GCA to just 10 points, while Reynald Calbatica and Angelo Montes teamed up for 13 markers in the comeback.

But in the end, Salas, the team's captain, held it together for the Eagles with eight points down the homestretch. Salas also received seven points from Moon Bin Hong.

Kautz delivered 10 points in the clutch, but was nowhere to be found on the other end and the Knight's defense crumbled late in the game.

Salas topped three other Eagles in double figures with 22 points, while Kautz managed 16 on the short end.

Meanwhile, Saipan Southern High School's junior Manta Rays blew out the Saipan International School Geckos, 55-17, in the junior varsity match.

Southern improved to a 3-1 record, while SIS remains winless after three tries.

The Rays worked out an early 13-7 advantage in the first quarter off the seven points of Emerson Feria. SIS struggled controlling possession of the ball and was held to just a pair of free throws in the second period as the Rays trudged ahead at halftime, 23-9.

The Rays smelled blood coming out of the pause and things went from bad to worse for the junior Geckos in the third quarter. SIS was stuffed to just one bucket in the period, while the Rays piled up a 37-11 margin, heading into the fourth quarter

Feria added six more points in the payoff period and the Rays cruised to their third win. James Kintaro came off the bench for Southern and scored eight points to wedge in the dagger in the fourth quarter. Feria led the group with 15 points, while SIS frontman Chris Cepeda was contained to just seven markers.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan Southern High School's Emerson Feria streaks to the basket during their game against Saipan International School in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Varsity Game

GCA 67 – A Salas 22, Hong 16, Libut 11, Kim 10, J. Salas 8.

MCS 57 – Kautz 16, Calbatica 12, Montes 12, Saludez 6, Taguchi 5, Igitol 4, Pamintuan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-7, 35-21, 45-38, 67-57.

Junior Varsity Game

SSHS 55 – Feria 15, Javier 12, Camacho 9, Kintaro 8, Ferrer 5, Reyes 4, Huertes 2.

SIS 17 – Cepeda 7, Johnson 4, J. Kim 3, Y. Kim 3.

Scoring by quarters: 13-7, 23-9, 37-11, 55-17.

SAN ANTONIO

From Page 28

from As Lito's hands. Brothers Nevin and Nico Salem, Bryle Alegre, Pedro Castro, and Jed Villanueva also contributed in the fourth period.

San Antonio led at the end of each quarter, as it managed to hit its shots both from inside and outside. San Antonio made five triples against the four of As Lito, which drilled three of its trey late in the fourth then the game was already decided.

As Lito advanced to the finals after topping Chalan Kanoa Fong's in the first semis game yesterday morning, 79-68, before falling short against San Antonio in the all-important match in the afternoon.

Only Sheen Metran had enough gas left to battle San Antonio in the finals, as the As Lito center scored a game-high 28 points. Juluis Tabamo was the only other double-figure scorer for As Lito with 11, but was held to two free throws in the fourth when San Antonio pulled away.

James Wabinga, who had 14 points in their semis win, came in midway in the second quarter of the title game and was limited to four points. Rainier Deleon Guerrero, who chipped in seven in the semis, missed the finals.

Meanwhile, in the battle for this place, Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery defeated the San Vicente Saints, 69-66.

Chalan Kanoa held the Saints to 11 points in the fourth quarter to turn a 49-55 deficit to a three-point win. Jun Tabora and Ezra Caro had 12 of Chalan Kanoa's 20 points in the payoff period. Caro top-scored for the team with 24, while Tabora added 15.

Third Place Game

Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery 69 – Caro 24, Tabora 15, Bernardo 8, Mina 6, Santos 8, Lerio 4.

San Vicente Saints 66 – L.J. Reyes 22, Iglecias 10, Namelo 8, Lizama 7, Eubanks 6, Basa 5, Brennan 4, Cruz 2, Lu. Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 36-33, 49-55, 69-66.

Championship Game

San Antonio/Gene's Barber 87 – Aranda 18, Ne. Salem 17, Palacios 16, De Guzman 11, Ni. Salem 9, Alegre 5, Castro 7, Villanueva 2, Manalo 2.

As Lito/Chow Queen 72 – Metran 28, Tabamo 11, Babauta 8, Lansang 7, Sevilla 6, Capalad 4, Wabinga 4, Sarmiento 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 40-33, 60-52, 87-72.

MORRIS

From Page 28

Resort. Then in the bike leg, Morris and company went up to Marianas Country Club to the million-gallon tank, turned right to Kimikaze Trail, took the paved road to Santati Trail, turned left at the junction (instead of turning right to Cowtown) and then headed back to the paved road for the starting/finish line. The run leg brought participants to the end of La Fiesta, one million gallon tank, and to the trail in the opposite direction at the start of the bike course before returning to PauPau.

Other long course finishers in the XTERRA division were Charlie Sendin (1:31:32) and John Douglas (1:36:00).

In the short course, Mieko Carey was first to make it to the finish line, completing the race in 44:30. Carey said she decided to do only the short course only as it was a good training for her. The pro triathlete then rested for less than 10 minutes and negotiated the same short course again. Jay Diyco was the other participant in the short course and timed in at 1:03:50.

After the one-lap swim leg, Carey and Diyco turned right to Marianas Country Club, pedaled up the million gallon tank, turned left to the FEBC road, turned left down to Middle Road, and turned left again on the way back to PauPau. In the run leg, they went up to one million gallon tank and back to PauPau.

In the Tagaman long course, Florence Antonio was the top finisher, timing in at 1:30:59, less than a minute ahead of Ronald Villafria, who did the run leg barefoot and clocked in at 1:31:31. Manny Sitchon completed the Top 3 with a combined time of 1:36:20. Other long course finishers were Ben Babauta (1:36:44), Daniel Calvo (1:37:25), Paul Plunkett (1:42:10), and Jun Lee (1:59:32).

In the short course, Nicky Nichols was first to cut the tape, submitting 1:15:34 and beating James Abuy (1:15:34).

The Tagaman short course had participants doing one lap of the swim leg and then for the bike race, they went to Banzai and back to the starting line. For the run leg, short course runners went to Marianas Resort and back. In the long bike course, they passed through Bird Island and Banzai before returning to PauPau and for the run part, participants raced up to FEBC sign and back to the starting/finish line.

Kim, Park win LaoLao's longest drive contest

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Korean golfers Ryan Kim and Lucy Park worked their way to first place finishes in LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's longest drive challenge Saturday night at the LaoLao Bay driving range.

The 20-year old Kim has been hitting the links for just over five years and was pleasantly surprised with his debut in a long drive competition. Kim defeated 65 other male participants and came into the final round as the top qualifier with a 285-yard bullet.

Seo Dong Hyeok (280 yds) qualified in second place, Carl Hocog (270 yds) advanced in third, Tony Benavente (260 yds) showed in fourth, and Kim Dae Hoon (257 yds) rounded out the fifth and final spot.

Golfers were given five balls in the qualifying round, but were allowed just two swings in the finals.

In the end, Hyeok and Hocog could not manage to safely land a shot within the designated fairway, however Dae Hoon blasted a bomb 262 yards under pressure, while Benavente rested one of his shots 246 yards down range.

Kim was the last to tee up and he needed just one swing to take the nod. He hammered a draw down the right side into the wind edged that ended up along the left edge to beat Dae Hoon's mark by just a couple yards (264 yards) and get the top prize.

As for Park, she finished heads and shoulders above the 30-player field. The 13-year-old eighth grader from Saipan International School was the heavy favorite coming into the finals after posting a 254-yard smash in the qualifying rounds, 40 yards further than runner-up Chae Bin Kim (211 yds). Lee Young Hi (210 yds), Kim Yang (210 yds) and Da Young Han (209 yds) made up the rest of the finalists.

Yang belted a 209-yard shot, but was one-upped once again by Bin Kim's 211-yard drive; Young Hi and Young Han scratched in the finals.

In the finals, Park also needed only one try to seize the day and airmailed a 254-yard strike for the win. Notably, although Park recently underwent some lessons through the International Golf Academy, she took up the game of golf less than a year ago.

All first place long ball winners were awarded 15 coupons, each good for a free round at the Kagman course. Runners-up received 10 coupons and the third placers were issued five.

Other winners in the weekend event were Kim Dong Eun, Choi Ki Sun and Kim Dae Hoon, who topped the closest to the pin contests. Event participants were given two chances to sink a 35-yard shot. No one managed to make the shot, but Eun took top honors after resting his shot just eight inches from the cup. He won a Ping putter and pitching wedge. Sun came in second and Hoon finished third and also won pitching wedges from LoaLao Bay pro shop.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Ryan Kim, left, and Lucy Park show off their prize packages after winning LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort's longest drive contest last Saturday night.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	17	7	.708	—
Boston	12	10	.545	4
New York	9	15	.375	8
Toronto	8	16	.333	9
New Jersey	8	17	.320	9 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	17	6	.739	—
Atlanta	16	8	.667	1 1/2
Orlando	15	9	.625	2 1/2
Washington	4	20	.167	13 1/2
Charlotte	3	21	.125	14 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	20	6	.769	—
Indiana	16	7	.696	2 1/2
Milwaukee	10	13	.435	8 1/2
Cleveland	9	13	.409	9
Detroit	6	20	.231	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	16	9	.640	—
Dallas	14	11	.560	2
Houston	13	11	.542	2 1/2
Memphis	12	11	.522	3
New Orleans	4	20	.167	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	18	5	.783	—
Denver	15	9	.625	3 1/2
Utah	13	9	.591	4 1/2
Portland	14	10	.583	4 1/2
Minnesota	12	12	.500	6 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	14	7	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	14	10	.583	1 1/2
Phoenix	9	14	.391	6
Golden State	8	13	.381	6
Sacramento	8	15	.348	7

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 98, Atlanta 87
Orlando 85, Indiana 81
L.A. Clippers 107, Washington 81
Cleveland 91, Dallas 88
Detroit 89, New Orleans 87
New York 99, New Jersey 92
Minnesota 100, Houston 91
San Antonio 107, Oklahoma City 96
Chicago 113, Milwaukee 90
Phoenix 95, Charlotte 89
Utah 96, L.A. Lakers 87
Sacramento 114, Golden State 106, OT
Portland 117, Denver 97

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Back to busy schedule

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Members of the CNMI sports community had their hands full last week with the staging of various competitions.

In cycling, the Mt. Tapochau Bike Club organized the 1st Annual San Vicente Church Bike Race with over 80 bikers joining the fundraiser. Veteran Butch Sublemented led the winners of the event, ruling the MTB championship course. Other top finishers in their respective divisions were Noel Altamirano, Ricardo Antonio, Susan Marchitti, Ronald Lanuza, Joan Salazar, Nap Dizon, Esther Ada, Juanita Fajardo, Rima Yamagishi, and Sheryl Camacho.

In another race last week, Mamiko Oshima-Berger gained her third straight women's crown after topping the 20K even in the 5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run. Oshima-Berger shared the podium with first time men's division winner Charles Epperson. Ronald Villafria and Akane Imaya prevailed in the 10K race.

In baseball, the CNMI Junior National Team completed its stint in the 18U/AAA Oceania Championship last Thursday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam. The CNMI sluggers bowed to Guam in the battle for third place, 1-3, to finish the tournament with only one win in seven games. The Commonwealth bets won over New Zealand in the preliminaries. Australia ruled the tournament after beating New Zealand in the finals.

In basketball, the MDX caging was down to four teams after last week's playoffs. Making it to the semis were San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, As Lito, and San Vicente.

Still in basketball, the MISO boys caging continued with its regular season games with Kagman High School posting the best win of the week after handing Marianas High Schools its first loss in four matches.

Still in MISO, Saipan International School 1 kept its unbeaten record (8-0) in the girls volleyball competition, while MHS1 still leads in the girls soccer.

In Rocball, Aim Low advanced to the finals first after sweeping Just-Do-It in the semifinals, while the Teachers followed suit after eliminating Roc It.

In soccer, MP United Football Club held a rally in Navy Hill to open up the spring season and later last week sent three teams to Guam for a friendly competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Enrico del Rosario, center, seen here in action for Real Jeepney FC in Weekly Futbol League in the Philippines, suited up for MP United FC U15 team that played in a friendly tournament in Guam last weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kento Akimaru, left, and Lennosuke Susuki sprint to the finish line of the 10K race in last week's 5th Marianas Coffee Trail.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Saipan International School player pops up a serve during their game against Marianas High School in the MISO volleyball last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI first baseman Ian Rogolifoi, left, returns the ball to the pitcher during their game against Australia in the Oceania tournament in Guam last week.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's Brandon Santos streaks to the basket from the baseline during their game against Marianas High School in the MISO caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jay Santos of Mount Tapochau Bike Club, fourth left, presents the proceeds from the San Vicente Church Bike Race to Father Rey Rosal, third left, Parish Priest of the San Vicente Church.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Vicente's Vince Iglecias drives to the baseline against Susupe's Martin Moreno during their playoff game in the MDX caging last week at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Martin, 4 linemen make Hall of Fame
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Parker's 42 powers Spurs past NBA-best Thunder
PAGE 25

San Antonio rules MDX inter-village league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Antonio/Gene's Barber won back-to-back games yesterday to claim the championship in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League.

The Danny Bicera-coached San Antonio first eliminated the San Vicente Saints in the semifinal match yesterday morning at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe, 80-61, and then returned to the hard court with an 87-72 triumph in the one-game finals against As Lito Chow Queen.

A consistent and balance offense lifted San Antonio to the championship, as it had four players breaking into double figures both in the semis and in the finals and the team was the only squad to score at least 80 points in both matches.

Jack Aranda paced San Antonio in the finals with his 18 points, while Nevin Salem added 17, and Adrian Palacios and Jaymark De Guzman chipped in 16 and 11, respectively.

Aranda drilled 11 of his total points in the fourth-quarter breakaway. San Antonio was ahead by only eight after the third period, 60-52, when Aranda scored six of the team's first seven points in the fourth canto and later nailed a triple to slowly put the game away

See SAN ANTONIO on Page 26

San Antonio's Nico Salem goes for a left-handed shot against As Lito's Sheen Metran during their championship game in the MDX caging yesterday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Morris tops Enticer 2

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Enticer 2 belonged to sophomore Brian Morris as he completed last Saturday's pre-XTERRA long course race with the fastest time in the group.

Morris, who debuted in XTERRA Saipan Championship last year, had a combined timed of 1:19:10 to beat Enticer 1 winner Butch Sublemente. Sublemente failed to notch back-to-back Enticer wins as he came to the finish line at PauPau Beach four minutes behind Morris. Rounding out the Top 3 in the XTERRA long course was Lewie Tenorio, who submitted 1:24:42.

Enticer 2, which was part of a series of pre-XTERRA/Tagaman races, started with the swim leg in the PauPau Beach. Long course participants did two laps of the swim course from Paupau to the left side of the beach near Palm's

See MORRIS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Brian Morris runs along the shore after completing two laps of the swim leg in last Saturday's Enticer 2 at PauPau Beach.

Local pigskin prognosticators weigh in on Giants-Patriots rematch

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Will New England get its vengeance after New York wrecked the Patriots' perfect season four years ago and hand quarterback Tom Brady his fourth championship or will the Giants win again for Eli Manning's second NFL title?

The Patriots and the Giants clash in today's Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis and hundreds of thousands of football fans are expected to follow the highly anticipated rematch to find out which team will hoist the coveted Vince Lombardi trophy.

Saipan football fans are one of those who will be glued on TV today and some of them had already made their picks in Super Bowl XLVI.

"The Giants have a really good defense, but I think New England will be the last team standing in the end. Tom Brady has more experience than Eli Manning and let's just say he has something to prove after the last time these two teams clashed."

Glenn Smith
MISO coordinator/SSHS P.E. teacher

"I am a New York franchise fan and I go for the Yankees, so I am rooting for the Giants."

James Lee
UBA president

"I'm rooting for the New York Giants! I believe in Eli Manning and I know that he will pull through and be the MVP again in the rematch. The G-Men are coming in as the underdogs and are also considered the smaller of the two teams. It will be a close game, but the Giants will get it done folks! To all the naysayers, Super Bowl 42 was not a fluke and they are going to prove it."

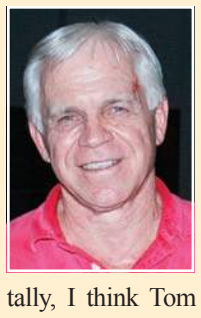
Joshua Jones
Kagman High School student

"Being a San Francisco 49ers fan, it is a bittersweet feeling watching the big game this year, but I hope the New England gets revenge for me. Although I am critical of some of the Patriots' dealing in the past, I still want to see the Giants lose. I think it's going to be a tough matchup as both quarterbacks are proven. On one hand Eli Manning wants to up the ante with his brother Peyton and his team want to prove that the last meeting was not a fluke, while the Patriots want revenge and Tom Brady is playing to enter the upper epsilon of NFL post-season history."

LJ Castro
Trench Tech Purebred Promotions announcer

"I think Tom Brady is so handsome and I like the Patriots' uniforms better too - lol! Plus, my dad told me that New England has a really good coach and that they want to get back at the Giants for ruining their undefeated season a few years back."

Char Lizardo
MHS student and MISO table official



"I think the Giants will win because they knocked off a tough San Francisco 49ers team. Coincidentally, I think Tom Brady is in a bit of a slump so it wouldn't surprise me if the Giants come away victorious."

James Feger
Rocball founder

"I think the Giants will win again mostly because of Rob Gronkowski's ankle injury. He was a big part of the Patriots offense all year long and him being hurt will be a big factor in their demise."

Rex Yabut
MISO table official

"Both teams are equally strong and the Patriots have not forgotten what happened the last time they faced the Giants in a Super Bowl game. It was the Giants that ended their quest for a perfect season and may be seeking revenge, and will definitely motivate them to do better. However, I like the Giants by seven points. They have a relentless frontline defense that will push and push and rattle Tom Brady. If they can continually pressure Brady and create turnovers, they will capitalize and score some points. The game against the Packers is testimony to their solid defense. Hard to believe that they ended the season 9-7, but they did end up strong and have carried over in the playoffs. Now, they just need to play like they have been playing. To win, Eli Manning must play consistent, solid and MVP caliber like he has most of the season."

Ed Salas
NMIFA general secretary

"I'm going for the Giants, but in the end, I think Tom Brady and the Patriots will pull it out. Still, I am expecting a low scoring game, so give me New England over the G-Men, 17-14."

Nick Gross
MISO President/MHS P.E. teacher